

Ministry Continues To Engage With Selangor Government On Master Agreement
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- The energy, green technology and water ministry will continue to engage with the Selangor Government to resume talks and extend the cut-off date of the Master Agreement.

In line with this, minister, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said he had written a letter (signed yesterday) to Selangor Menteri Besar Mohamed Azmin Ali, asking the latter to re-think his decision to allow the Master Agreement to lapse.

"The letter also requested for a meeting between the two sides at the officers level, as well as between the minister and menteri besar, as soon as possible," he said in a statement here tonight.

Ongkili said the statement by the menteri besar that Selangor's sovereignty was jeopardised because the federal government insisted it wanted land covering 26,000km of pipe area in Selangor was confusing and worrying the rakyat of Selangor.

"On media queries whether the federal government will invoke Section 114 of the WSIA (Water Services Industry Act) to resolve this impasse, this is an option but it is an instrument of last resort when negotiations fail and national interests are jeopardised. The Federal Government reserves the right to use it if the situation demands," he added.

He said a legal recourse was also an option as the Heads of Agreement earlier signed between the parties concerned on Aug 1, 2014 was irrevocable.

However, Ongkili said the ministry was confident the federal government and Selangor Government could sit down and iron out all disputes towards realising the Master Agreement.

"This is especially, as the Selangor Government has indicated its willingness to meet and further discuss with the federal government on how to revive the stalled Master Agreement," he added.

On Monday, Mohamed Azmin said the state government had decided to cancel the agreement as the federal government had violated the terms of the main agreement signed on Sept 12 last year.

It is feared that the decision may affect the construction of phase one of the Langat 2 Water Treatment Plant project which is expected to be completed in 2017 to meet increasing demand for treated water.

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