

# RM4.6b for water supply projects

**LONG-TERM PLAN:**  
Policy drafted to oversee proper management

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**T**HE government has unveiled the National Water Resources Policy to oversee the proper management and sufficient supply of water for the country until 2050.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the policy reflected the government's commitment in making sure the people had enough water.

He said this in a speech at the launch of the national-level celebration of International Water Day 2012 at Dataran Pinggiran Sungai Kerian here yesterday.

His speech was read by Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui. Present was Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas.

Muhyiddin said the policy would ensure that the country's water needs were secured to help with the long-term development.

"As we progress in agricultural and industrial sectors, and see an increase in urbanisation and higher population growth, we need to focus on maintaining sufficient water supply for the future.

"The policy also aims to support the government's food security measures and rural development programmes."

Muhyiddin said this year's theme — Water and Food Security — reflected the need to develop well-planned water infrastructure to back the government's National Agro Food Policy.

He urged all quarters involved in the water industry, whether at the Federal or state level, to focus their efforts in procuring sufficient sup-

ply of water.

"The Barisan Nasional government is very concerned about this and is committed to ensuring that every town and village in every state, irrespective of who is administering them, gets sufficient water supply."

Muhyiddin said the government had spent RM10.9 billion during the 9th Malaysia Plan to provide water supply and assist with flood mitigation.

Under the 10th Malaysia Plan until next year, the government would spend RM4.64 billion for the same purpose, he added.

Douglas announced that the Kerian Valley flood mitigation programme, announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in January, would be carried out in 23 stages.

He said tenders for two stages had been awarded, adding that the mitigation project would cost RM493 million.

The project is to reduce flooding in north Perak, south Kedah and mainland parts of Penang.



**A total of 38 primary schoolchildren from SK Taman Tun Dr Ismail 2 participating in a River and Water Awareness Education Programme organised by Salcon Bhd and Water Watch Penang and Malaysian Water Partnership in conjunction with World Water Day 2012 at the Lembah Kiara Recreation Park, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, yesterday. Pic by Yong Chee Choong**