



Deputy Prime Minister **Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** chairing the **8th National Water Resources Council** meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Natural Resources and Environment Minister **Datuk Seri G. Palanivel** (right) and Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili** (left). Bernama pic

Water councils for all states

BETTER COORDINATION: Move to reduce and eliminate all forms of water pollution

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A WATER Resources Council (MSANG) will be established in every state to ensure better coordination in implementing decisions made by the National Water Resources Council (MSAN).

The 8th MSAN meeting yesterday concluded that MSANG would be tasked with the role to discuss, implement and coordinate with other government agencies on decisions

made at MSAN meetings.

Other related government agencies were also encouraged to provide input to MSANG.

The council said the establishment of MSANG would provide backing for the government's effort to reduce and eliminate water pollution.

The level of water pollution would be monitored thoroughly and enforcement was set to improve under the MSANG.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri

Muhyiddin Yassin.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel, Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili and seven other ministers at the federal and state levels attended the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Guidelines under the National Coastal Zone Development.

Malaysia has long stretches of coastlines totalling 4,809km and rapid development along some stretches have caused hydrodynamic and environmental instability.

Thirty per cent of the coastlines are facing erosion problems and this has caused damage to private and

public properties.

The meeting discussed in detail the need for an impact evaluation for coastal development projects.

The guidelines would be used by the authorities, developers and private corporations.

The meeting also discussed the guidelines on flood mitigation for buildings at flood-prone areas; the implementation of the interceptor system at rivers to prevent pollution; and preparatory works to collect geopastial information on the causes of river pollution.

The meeting also touched on the study of sea level rise in Sandakan, Sabah, the usage of underground water to prevent bushfires and water management in oil palm plantations.