

'We are looking at alternatives'

AID: Govt to help by funding project

**PREDEEP NAMBIAR
AND ELVINA FERNANDEZ,**
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE Federal Government will assist the Selangor government to meet the state's water needs via alternative solutions.

Natural Resources and Energy Minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said the proposals could serve as a solution to the water predicament faced by the state.

He said the alternative water sourcing includes rainwater harvesting system and tapping groundwater sources.

"After discussing the matter with

the relevant people in the ministry, we will sit down with Selangor Menteri Besar (Tan Sri) Abdul Khalid Ibrahim to discuss on the possibilities of implementing rain water harvesting and groundwater sourcing.

"The ministry is willing to work with the state government in implementing these alternatives if the state government agrees to implementation in the state," he said yesterday.

Palanivel revealed that the Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday discussed the two proposals.

He added that National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (Nahrim), had carried out studies

on the potential of developing groundwater using the riverbank filtration technique at Jenderam Hilir, Kuala Langat and Hulu Langat.

Palanivel said Nahrim had already carried out study and investigations on groundwater sources at the Sungai Langat basin, and completed a pump and source management model at Olak Lempit in Banting.

On the the high cost of implementing rainwater harvesting system, Pa-

lanivel said the Federal Government could help in funding the project if the system was implemented.

"Apart from the government, industries could also do their part to

fund the system in industrial areas and residential areas.

"Rainwater can be harvested and recycled. Then, this water can be used by people in the areas nearby without having to depend fully on treated water supply."



**WATER
CRISIS**

Earlier, Palanivel presented grants from Shell Malaysia worth RM294,000 to six organisations for their eight sustainable projects.

Meanwhile, Deputy Na-

tional Resources and Environmental Minister Datuk Seri James Dawos Mamit said the Selangor state government needs to reassess its use of the 'Royal Rainmaking Technology' from Thailand for cloud seeding operation.

He said Selangor did not have a proper dam system which would cause the water source not to be stored properly in the dams.

"Dams are supposed to store water as water reserves. If the water cascades, it will flow to the next dam until it reaches the water treatment plant. The water treatment plant in Selangor is in Sungai Selangor, not in those dams."

Yesterday, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim was reported to have directed Lembaga Urus Air Selangor (LUAS) to seek help from Thailand for the cloud seeding technology as it could provide rains for three times a week in the Selangor dam areas. **Additional reporting by Hashini Kavishtri Kannan and Mastura Yusoff**

→ Full report at www.nst.com.my