

'No farming near water catchments'

CONSERVATION:

Federal and state govts will meet to resolve matter, says minister

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LICENCES for agricultural and farming activities near water-catchment areas and dams should not have been issued, especially if the farms are located only 100m away, said Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili yesterday.

He said air surveillance had revealed there were farms operating

near water-catchment areas in several states.

Ongkili said his ministry would meet with the state governments to discuss agricultural and farming activities near water-catchment areas and dams.

"The federal and state governments will have to resolve the matter.

"The National Water Resources Council has to tighten the latter's role to conserve and protect water-catchment areas.

"Sometimes, there are cases of overlapping land titles," Ongkili said after a visit to the RM80.8 million Sungai Johor Barrage site in Taman Kota Intan here.

He said the project, which will be completed by mid-July, would reduce the water shortage in Johor and the facility would increase the supply of treated water to consumers in Pasir Gudang and Pengerang here.