

MB: Declare Kerian a disaster zone

FEDERAL AID: Farmers affected by water shortage can get aid, says Zambry

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THE Perak government has urged the Federal Government to declare Kerian district as a disaster zone to allow farmers affected by water shortage to receive aid.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said the situation at Bukit Merah Dam was worsening with the water level receding further.

"About 5,000ha of padi fields have been affected by the dry season.

"Steps must be taken to help the farmers whose income has been affected," he said.

Speaking before chairing the

weekly state executive councillors meeting here yesterday, Zambry said the state had informed the Federal Government of the matter.

"We are keeping close contact with the Federal Government. We hope the area will be declared a disaster zone soon."

It was reported yesterday that Kerian district might be declared a disaster zone if the water level at Bukit Merah Dam dropped to 5.1m, which will see about 250,000 people facing water rationing.

State Public Utilities, Infrastructure, Energy and Water Committee chairman Datuk Zainol Radzi Paharuddin said if the dry weather continued, it would take another 23 days

for the water level at the man-made lake to reach a critical level.



**Datuk Seri
Dr Zambry
Abd Kadir**