



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak together with Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui (third from left), Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob (second from left), Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas (second from right) and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung (right) symbolically press a water pump to mark the launching of World Water Day celebration yesterday. — Picture by Azmaidi Abidin

# Resolve water issues quickly, says Najib

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**PEKAN:** All issues involving water must be tackled in the best way possible to ensure its continuous supply for the future generations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government was very concerned about the needs of the future generation, and water was one of them.

"The government is studying how to formulate a bill on the national water resource policy and the overall water resource institution for a more integrated and effective water resource management.

"Water resource governance at the federal and state levels must be implemented in a more integrated manner to ensure that the national water requirement is always sufficient and fulfils the water quality standard stipulated," he said when opening the World Water Day Celebration Programme 2011 here yesterday.

The prime minister said water issues were divided into three categories — excessive water that led to floods, water shortage that led to drought, and water quality caused by weather change and global warming.

He said the National Policy on Climate Change, launched last year, specifically contained various strategies and action plans to reduce the impact of weather change on the country.

He also reminded the relevant ministries and departments to give serious attention to the matter and observe what was happening in the world, so that the impact from the climate change could be detected much earlier. "This way we will be able to provide an

action plan so that the situation will be under control no matter what happens."

Najib said the Federal government had also allocated RM2.1 billion for the first two years of the 10th Malaysia Plan for flood alleviation programmes in several areas in the country.

Efforts, he said, were being made to look for and develop alternative sources of water.

He said the government had also taken measures to restructure the water supply industry through a central water management so that the water supply operator could give special emphasis to water supply services.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Energy, Green technology and Water, Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Housing and Local Government, Datuk Wira Chor Chee Heung and chairman of Unesco-International Hydrological Programme Malaysia Datuk Ahmad Husaini Sulaiman.

During his visit to the Universiti Malaysia Pahang campus in Kuala Pahang, Najib reminded lecturers to refrain from too much politicking to secure positions, and to instead focus on their role as educators.

The prime minister later launched a green technology project to recycle used engine oil that was developed by UMP Green Technology Sdn Bhd and Urban Environment Industries Sdn Bhd.

Later in Pekan, when opening the meetings of Umno branches in his Pekan constituency, Najib said Umno branch leaders must be the frontline in interacting with voters and people at the grassroots.