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Pay up for water, Penang urged

UUM vice-chancellor: Kedah govt's request reasonable

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THE request by the Kedah government to Penang to pay for raw water drawn from the Muda River is reasonable, said Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak.

He said Kedah had been protecting the water catchment area.

"The state cannot log the forest since this will affect the water catchment area.

"So, it should receive a benefit for the sacrifice," he said at a press conference in Alor Setar yesterday.

Dr Mohamed, who is National Council of Professors Political, Security and International Cluster head, said Penang should show its appreciation by making the payment.

Recently, Kedah Mentri Besar

The state cannot log the forest since this will affect the water catchment area.

— PROF DATUK DR MOHAMED MUSTAFA ISHAK

Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir said the state would continue to seek payment for raw water channelled to Penang.

He had said the question of whether the move was justified was not based on the fact that the Muda River ran through Penang but rather on where the source of the water was.

He said there was historic evidence the Penang government had acknowledged the water source was from Kedah.

On another note, Dr Mohamed said UUM was willing to assist Kedah in the proposed state transformation laboratory which was announced by Mukhriz on Wednesday.

He said UUM could offer its expertise and input for strategic

planning in the state development programmes.

"There are many areas with strong development potential including eco and agro tourism. The state government has made a correct move since the laboratory can help the state to properly plan its development agenda," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohamed, who is also SM Sultan Abdul Halim Alumni Association president, said the association would hold a royal dinner in conjunction with the school's 50 year anniversary on June 30 at Dewan Wawasan in Jitra.

He said Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Haminah Hamidun would grace the event.