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New water Bill to be tabled next year

KUALA LUMPUR: A Bill on national water resources will be tabled in the first Parliament meeting next year, says Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Hamim Samuri.

He said the Bill, the draft of which is being refined, seeks to prevent water supply crises.

"This is for the future of our national water supply and for our water resources to be better managed," he told reporters after opening the

14th Medicinal and Aromatic Plants seminar here yesterday.

He said similar Bills had been tabled in the state assemblies in the peninsula.

"The move has been well received thus far. Sabah and Sarawak will be next," he added.

Also present were Forest Research Institute Malaysia director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod and •Majlis Amanah Rakyat director-general Datuk

Ibrahim Ahmad.

Hamim said if the Bill was passed, there would be clear-cut guidelines on protecting and preserving water resources more effectively.

He said the Bill was timely in view of the water supply crises cropping up now and then.

"It's related to water management. We are facing situations such as global warming, water pollution and shortages, all of which the Bill will address," he said. — Bernama