



KERATAN AKHBAR

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# 'Bill will not raise sewerage tariff'

## Combined charges only meant to ease payment process, says Xavier

THE combined water and Indah Water Consortium (IWK) bill will not lead to an increase in the sewerage tariff, says Datuk Dr Xavier Jayakumar.

The Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister said the move was aimed at facilitating the payment process as customers would receive and pay one bill for both services.

"In addition, customers will only need to contact one centre if they have any questions or complaints regarding the bill as IWK staff will be at the water supply office."

"Customers need not call different lines for water supply and sewerage service issues in the event of any problems," he said during Question Time yesterday.

He said this in reply to a question from Datuk Mansor Othman (PH-Nibong Tebal) on the extent of the government's efforts to integrate the water supply bill with the IWK sewerage bill and its effect on the government and the people.

Dr Xavier said the combined bill pilot project, which was implemented in Labuan between 2016 and 2018, saw IWK's collection increased from 87% to 90.4%.

This, he said, translated to an increase in collection for the Labuan Water Department from RM33.11m to RM33.82m for the same period.

"A state water operator will be signing an agreement with IWK on Dec 20 to have their bills combined," he added.

He, however, did not reveal the state involved, only saying that the Penang government was also keen in seeing a combined IWK and water bill for the state.

Dr Xavier also said the RM150m annual subsidy to IWK would be stopped in the next five years.

"The subsidy is given to avoid problems arising with regard to sewage management in the country,"

"The government will stop providing it in five years as IWK would be financially independent by then," he said when answering a supplementary question raised by Ahmad Amzad Mohamed Hashim (PAS-Kuala Terengganu).