



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Air Selangor will be main operator

It will oversee Selangor, KL and Putrajaya supply

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PUTRAJAYA: Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya will be operating with just one water concessionaire, namely Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd effective April 1.

It marks an end to a saga of more than 10 years with Selangor having to deal with the issue under four federal ministers, three mentris besar and four state secretaries.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar does not foresee any delay in getting Air Selangor to start its operations, especially now that it has been provided with financial help in acquiring Syarikat Pengeluar Air Sungai Selangor Sdn Bhd (Splash).

"I don't think there will be any hiccups because everything has been settled, the amount has been agreed upon between Air Selangor and Splash, and the Cabinet has given its approval.

"The coming months is just the process of going through the business model and hand over the assets to Air Selangor so that it can operate as planned," he said.

The minister was speaking after witnessing the signing of third supplementary agreement on the restructuring of water services for Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

The supplementary agreement states that the federal government - via Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd - agreeing to a financing facility

amounting to RM1.9bil for the purpose of the takeover.

Dr Xavier said Selangor was not the last state to be completing water restructuring as Perlis, Pahang, Terengganu and Kedah had yet to do so.

Selangor Menteri Besar Amirudin Shari is pleased the issue has been resolved as he had made it one of his pledges when he accepted the post.

"Discussions on restructuring Selangor's water services began in 2007 and after so long, we have finally managed to settle it," he said.

Amirudin said it took time for the water restructuring process to complete because the state has not one, but four water concessionaires.

"So you can imagine how difficult and tedious the process is, but we managed to pull through," he said.

The federal and Selangor governments signed the master agreement to restructure the state's water services in 2014 to take over the four water concessionaires - Puncak Niaga Sdn Bhd, Konsortium Abass Sdn Bhd, Syarikat Belakan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) and Splash.

Air Selangor took over Syabas, Puncak Niaga and Konsortium Abass in 2015 while the acquisition of Splash was completed last year.

Amirudin also said that Air Selangor had come up with an capital expenditure plan of RM30bil for a time period of 30 years beginning this year to improve water services.