



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHBAR	:	SUNDAY STAR		
TARIKH	:	31/3/2019	MUKA SURAT	: 5
JABATAN	:	KATS / YBM / SPAN		
KLASIFIKASI	:	<b>PERHATIAN</b>		

# Dr Xavier aims to end talks on water tariffs this year

**SHAH ALAM:** The Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry is hoping the discussions on the new water tariffs with all the states would be concluded by the end of this year.

Its minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar said discussions are ongoing with all the states and the National Water Services Commission (SPAN).  
"The states must cooperate with

the ministry to ensure sufficient and uninterrupted water supply," he told reporters after attending the Science Fair for Young Children Champions League Programme yesterday.

When asked to comment on Selangor Menteri Besar Annuar bin Sharif's statement that the state disagreed with a proposal to increase its water tariffs by almost 50%, he said:

"We haven't set the tariffs yet. We will discuss this further."

"We will see what we can do so but at the same time the water industry can move forward."

Dr Xavier said the government was ready to spend money to ensure there was enough water.

When asked if there was resistance to tariff hikes, Dr Xavier said it

was natural.

"We must remember that water tariffs have not increased in 20 years despite inflation and depreciation of the ringgit," he said, adding that a review was necessary to cover costs of infrastructure.

The science fair is held annually among Tamil schools to encourage the learning of science among the

school children.

A total of 39 teams took part in the event that was organised by the Association of Science, Technology and Information (Asti).

A team from SJK(T) Puchong won the first prize while SJK(T) Taman Tun Anniah and SJK(T) Ladang Wellesley won second and third prize respectively.