



KERATAN AKHBAR

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| AKHBAR | : | STAR METRO | | |
| TARIKH | : | 14/1/2020 | MUKA SURAT | : 4 |
| JABATAN | : | SPAN | | |
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MB: No increase in water tariff yet

Selangor govt to ensure enough supply along with operator's ability to maintain facilities

By BRENDA CH'NG
brenda@thestar.com.my

WATER tariff in Selangor will remain the same as talk on new rates is ongoing. Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari says.

He said the state was also awaiting feedback from the Federal Government on the matter.

"Water is the state's right, so any decision will be made by the state, but at the moment we are still deciding if this is the right time to do it," he explained.

"The discussion has actually been on for years and we cannot act alone.

"We have to look at all aspects because what is most important is sustainable water supply and the ability of companies to maintain existing facilities," he added.

The state, said Amirudin, conducted studies on water tariff adjustments that covered all aspects including the Selangor free water scheme.

New water tariffs, he said, could be determined based on profits of Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Air Selangor), which was now being returned to the people via its free water scheme.

"Currently, it is a 50-50 thing where Selangor government bears 50% of the cost for free water while Air Selangor bears the other 50% from its profits," he said.

He was speaking to reporters



after the first government departments' monthly assembly yesterday.

It was previously reported that the water tariff would increase once the new Tariff Setting Mechanism (TSM) was implemented this year, according to the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry.

The proposed tariff increase would be between six and 71sen per 1,000litres and was said to be necessary in order to standardise and raise water tariff, owing to the disparity between the current rate against the true cost of production.

According to the ministry, the current tariff was RM1.38 per 1,000litres of water compared to the cost of production, which was at RM2.31 per 1,000litres.

On the Influenza A outbreak,

Amirudin said it was under control in Selangor as the public hospitals were well prepared.

He said the treason patients sought treatment at private hospitals was because of the long wait at government hospitals.

At the monthly assembly earlier, Amirudin awarded 33 officers for completing Bahasa Malaysia and English proficiency courses last year.

The 18 officers who passed the Bahasa Malaysia proficiency assessment are now referred to as language officers in their respective departments.

Another 15 were awarded for passing the English course.

"This is the start of a new year and a new decade, it is an important starting point for all of us to

change and improve for the better.

"I would like to urge all officers to welcome and adapt to change as well as learn how to provide more efficient services to the people," he said in his speech.

State Secretary Datuk Mohd Amin Ahmad Alya who attended the event, praised Selangor's leadership for breaking records and always pushing to be better.

"Over the past decade, numerous people-centric initiatives and programmes were introduced, such as free water, senior citizens scheme, affordable housing and free bus service.

"Our state has also been referred to as 'The State of Firsts' and we have always been in the forefront of trying out and introducing initiatives," he added.

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Amirudin greeting a state government officer at their first monthly assembly for the year. — Bernama