



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Water tariff to go up next year

WATER tariff will increase once the new Tariff Setting Mechanism (TSM) is implemented next year, says Deputy Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Tengku Zulpuri Shah Raja Puji.

He said the proposed tariff increase would be between six sen and 71 sen per 1,000 litres.

"The proposed TSM has taken into consideration the different needs of the water industry of each state.

"The new water tariff is expected to be implemented next year following the approval from Cabinet," he said when replying to a question by Datuk Mansor Othman (PH-Nibong Tebal).

Tengku Zulpuri said it was necessary to standardise and raise water tariff owing to the disparity between the current rate and

the true cost of production.

He noted that the current tariff was RM1.38 per 1,000 litres while the cost of production was RM2.31.

Tengku Zulpuri also said that the proposed hike would be done in a manner that will not burden low-income households.

"The government has given its assurance that only a minimum tariff increase would be imposed on the zero to 20 cubic meter usage band.

"This is because today, 47.8% of domestic water consumption falls within this band," Tengku Zulpuri said.

He said those from B40 (lower income) group were within this band.

Tengku Zulpuri said the tariff increase would be done in stages.