

<p>◆The Star : 15 October 2006</p><p>Water tariffs will go up by 15% for Klang Valley consumers who use more than 35 cubic metres per month, says Water, Energy and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik.◆ </p><p align="center">He said the ministry was still in discussion with Selangor on when the new tariffs would come into force.◆ </p><p>Dr Lim said the increase should not affect the lower income group.◆ </p><p>◆Those who consume less than 20 cubic metres of water per month will not be affected.◆◆ </p><p align="center">{mosimage}</p><p>For consumers who use more than 20 cubic metres a month but less than 35, the tariff increase is 6%. ◆ </p><p>Citing an example, he said that if the water bill was RM17 now, it would soon be between RM18 and RM18.50 after the increase. ◆ </p><p>For a normal five-member family, Dr Lim said household consumption should not exceed 30 cubic metres a month.◆ </p><p>Dr Lim, who is also Gerakan president, was speaking to reporters yesterday after the party◆s monthly central committee meeting at Menara PGRM here.◆ </p><p>He said Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Syabas) was entitled to a 15% increase because it had successfully reduced non-revenue water (NRW) by more than five per cent within a year, according to the concession agreement.◆ </p><p>◆If the Government does not give them that rise in tariff, they can demand compensation.◆ </p><p>◆For 2006, it (the compensation) is RM152mil; RM170mil for 2007 and RM190mil for 2008.◆◆ </p><p>Dr Lim said when Syabas took over from PUAS, it had also inherited a RM2.3bil debt. ◆ </p><p>To a question, he said it was up to the state to decide when to increase the tariff. However, the state must still pay Syabas the 2006 compensation.◆ </p><p>◆The announcement should have been made on Jan 1 this year. We were late because the auditors took until August to review the NRW,◆ he said. ◆ </p><p>Dr Lim emphasised that the ministry would not allow Syabas to backdate water bills.◆ </p><p>He said an agreement had been reached where the state would pay them in the form of grants instead of cash compensation, especially to replace and change pipes.◆ </p><p>According to Dr Lim, 42% of consumers would not be affected as their water consumption was below 20 cubic metres per month.◆ </p><p>◆Industries will have to pay the new rate,◆ he said. ◆ </p><p>Syabas chief operating officer Datuk Lee Miang Koi said it would issue a full explanation on the tariff increases tomorrow. ◆ </p><p></p><p></p><p></p><p></p><p></p></p>