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Mahathir-sewerage

CONSUMERS TO PAY UNDER THE NATIONAL SEWERAGE SYSTEM

LANGKAWI, Dec. 9 (Bernama) -- Consumers will be charged between RM2 and RM10 for each house depending on water usage under the privatised national sewerage system, Prime Minister ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. Those who use more water would have to pay more, he added, noting that the charge was low and would be incorporated in their water bill.

Speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing of the Concession Agreement between the Government and Indah Water Konsortium Sdn.Bhd. for the privatisation of the national sewerage system, he said squatters would be exempted.

The 28-year concession agreement to upgrade, extend, operate and maintain Malaysia's national sewerage system would involve a capital investment of RM6 billion by Indah Water Konsortium.

Under the privatisation of the system the responsibility for sewerage services would be transferred from the 143 local authorities on a planned basis over a period of three years. -- more

KHY LDB

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Mahathir-sewerage 2 Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said the privatised sewerage would be using a modular system for wastewater treatment, which was less costlier than the existing system.

About 800 employees involved in sewerage services in local authorities would be offered the option to join Indah Water which would eventually employ 2,000 workers.

Initially, the system would be implemented in Langkawi because of its importance as a tourists centre, he added.

Housing and Local Government Ministry Secretary General Datuk Umar Abu and the Director-General of Local Government Lim Boh Ang signed the agreement on behalf of the government while Indah Water was represented by its Executive Chairman Datuk Ghazi Haji Ramli and Managing Director David Chew Keat Soon.

Also present was Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh. -- more

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Mahathir-sewerage 3 (last) Langkawi

At the signing ceremony, Ghazi said the national sewerage system would bring tremendous benefits to the people of Malaysia, in line with Dr Mahathir's vision of making Malaysia a fully industrialised nation by the year 2020.

Work would begin in March 1994 in five priority areas of Kuala Lumpur, Pulau Pinang, Langkawi, Port Dickson and Labuan.

He added that the existing wastewater systems would be modernised and extended and new facilities built in areas which currently did not have treatment facilities.

It would significantly reduce river and coastal water pollution and improve public health.

Indah Water Konsortium, incorporated in 1991, is a joint venture company comprising Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera, Koperasi Polis Diraja Malaysia Berhad, Berjaya Industrial Berhad, AIMS Worldwide (M) Sdn.Bhd. and North West Water (Malaysia) Sdn.Bhd. -- Bernama

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