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IWK COLLECTION PROJECTED AT RM75 MLN FOR '97, RM328 MLN FOR '98

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (IWK) is projecting collection of RM75 million in sewerage charges next year and RM328 million in 1998.

The projection is based on new rates and 95 percent of customers paying up, its executive chairman Datuk Wan Adli Wan Ibrahim said today.

The company, awarded the privatisation of the country's sewerage system in December 1993, had spent RM480 million during the 1994-96 period.

Speaking at a press conference regarding implementation of the review of IWK's charges from Jan 1, 1997, he said the company had issued bills totalling RM290 million for sewerage charges through various Waterworks Departments.

The departments collected RM110 million of which RM73 million had been received by IWK to-date, he added.

Wan Adli said that in accordance with the review announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently, IWK would cancel all sewerage charges and arrears prior to Jan 1, 1997 and credit all payments made to future bills.

The "credit back" was one of the main reasons for the expected sharp increase in collection for 1997 and 1998, he added.

He said IWK was committed to reinvest a major portion of its revenue for the first 20 years of its to upgrade and manage the country's sewerage system.

IWK's concession was for 28 years from 1994 but because of the decision to cancel the charges and arrears before Jan 1, 1997, IWK was given a two-year extension.

Wan Adli said IWK was maintaining more than 3,600 public sewerage treatment plants, upkeeping 4,700 kilometres of sewers, 157 pump stations and three laboratories to test and monitor effluents.

It started taking over responsibility of the facilities from various local authorities, except those in Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan and Johor Baharu Municipality in April 1994.

So far, IWK had not billed customers in Terengganu, Kedah, Pahang, Johor and Labuan.

Wan Adli said IWK hoped to discuss with the Johor Baharu authorities to takeover the city's sewerage system.

IWK also planned to takeover treatment plants operated by property developers and contractors, he added. -- BERNAMA

JR LDB