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Mahathir-IWK

PEOPLE SHOULD THANK IWK FOR NOT COLLECTING CHARGES

ALOR SETAR, Oct 24 (Bernama) --Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people should be thankful to Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) for suspending the collection of sewerage charges in six states effective from Nov 1.

He said the IWK itself decided to suspend collection of the charges to streamline the billing system and customer accounts pending a government review of sewerage charges.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a news conference after opening an extension to the Keat Hwa Private Secondary School here.

He said under the agreement, the IWK had the right to collect payment irrespective of whether it provided the service or not.

"So say thank you. In Malaysia when someone gives something, the person will not say thank you but instead he will bite our hand," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said the IWK which was now being run by a new owner needed time to restructure its organisation and correct its weaknesses.

"The new person wants to rectify the situation. So say thank you," he said and criticised some Malaysians who were bent on criticising and pointing out the weaknesses of others and not give the person a chance to improve himself or the situation.

The six states are the Federal Territory, Selangor, Perak, Melaka, Perlis and Pulau Pinang.

IWK Executive Chairman Datuk Wan Adli Wan Ibrahim meanwhile said his company had held meetings with the Housing and Local Government Ministry, Economic Planning Unit and the Finance Ministry as part of the review exercise.

He said: "IWK is confident that the review will take into account the interests of consumers and come up with fairer terms."

He said the suspension of the collection of charges would not affect the sewerage services provided by the IWK.

Wan Adli said the IWK would maintain and operate all 3,300 public sewerage treatment plants and provide all related services.

He said the IWK hoped to resume collecting the charges from Jan 1 after the government had announced the review of charges. -- BERNAMA

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