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Ali-Water

WATER TARIFF HIKE NO BURDEN TO CONSUMERS

MELAKA, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Ali Rustam said the five to 10 per cent increase in water tariff from Jan 1 next year is no burden to consumers in the state.

He said the hike is unavoidable as the Melaka Water Corporation (PAM) has to repay federal government loans for construction of the Jus Dam.

The percentage of increase was decided after obtaining public feedback, he said after giving away cheques for compensation of land acquired for construction of Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) in Durian Tunggal, here today.

Mohamed Ali was asked to comment yesterday's announcement by PAM Deputy Chairman Hasnoor Husin on the increase in Melaka's water tariff.

Under the new scale, water tariff for the residential sector is increased to 50 sen from 45 sen a cubic metre while that for industrial sector, RM1.47 from RM1.40.

Mohamed Ali, who is the PAM Chairman, assured consumers that there would be no more increase in water tariff, at least within the next three to four years until the completion of the Jus Dam and water treatment plants in Gadek and Lanchang.

He said PAM is expected to earn another RM6 million with implementation of the new water tariff scale.

At the function, more than 200 villagers received RM45.5 million compensation for land acquisition for construction of the KUTKM campus on a 293.4 hectares in Mukim Durian Tunggal.

Mohamed Ali said the ground breaking ceremony for the RM400 million campus will be performed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Jan 26.

KUTKM, the country's 14th public tertiary education institution, has a temporary campus in Taman Tasik Utama here. Its first admission of 360 students was held last June.

-- BERNAMA

NO ZUL