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Tajol-Water

PERAK TO WAIT UNTIL 2005 BEFORE PRIVATISING WATER SUPPLY

IPOH, March 29 (Bernama) -- Perak will not be hasty in privatising its water supply operations and will instead wait for the scheduled privatisation of the Perak Water Board (LAP) in 2005.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said LAP wished to safeguard the interest of consumers and its employees.

The board will, therefore, be corporatised first. And when privatisation takes place later, it should be done the same way Telekom Malaysia Berhad and Tenaga Nasional Berhad were privatised, said Tajol.

"To privatise LAP, a 17 percent increase in salary must be considered. Only if we can afford that will we corporatise the board, for privatisation to take place later," he told reporters after attending the Politeknik Ungku Omar convocation here today.

Tajol was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that water supply operations throughout the country should be privatised to enable the people to enjoy better quality water.

Tajol said 2005 was the appropriate year to privatise water supply in the state as the RM234 million dam in Sungai Kinta, Hulu Kinta would be completed in 2004.

Besides, LAP's profits too were on the uptrend, rising from RM5 million in 1999 to RM10 million in 2000 and RM20 million last year.

This year's profits are expected to touch RM30 million while the projected figure for 2005 is RM50 million, added Tajol.

-- BERNAMA

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