

# PENANG WATER TARIFF TO RISE BY UP TO 20PC

Hike inevitable due to restructuring of water supply services, says CM

SITI SOFIA MD NASIR AND  
MUHAMMAD APENDY ISSAHAK  
**GEORGE TOWN**  
[cnews@nstp.com.my](mailto:cnews@nstp.com.my)

**P**ENANG residents have been told to brace for a higher water bill as the state's water tariff is expected to increase by up to 20 per cent.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the higher rates were inevitable due to the restructuring of the water supply services industry nationwide.

He said some users would experience a slight increase, while others would not be affected.

"The increase in water tariffs is



*Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu at a press conference in Ipoh yesterday. PIC BY MUHAIZAN YAHYA*

unavoidable. The percentage is likely to be around 20 per cent," he said here yesterday.

Chow, who is also chairman of the Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP), said the state government would abolish the water conservation surcharge once the new tariff was announced.

"Our water tariff is the lowest in the country and even with the increase, it will still be the lowest."

He said the increase might be done in stages this year, and would involve individual consumers and businesses.

He said the state government, through PBAPP, had held talks

with the Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry and the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) to review water tariff rates.

Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar said the tariff had to be raised to ensure that consumers received good quality water and services.

He said the ministry was working with SPAN and holding discussions with state governments to get the agreement of all parties before implementing tariff hikes.

In Perak, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu said water tariff hikes would be inevitable, although not immediate.

He said this was because the matter was being discussed.

"I was briefed on it by Pengerusan Aset Air Bhd two months ago. However, any decision on this will be made by the state government after careful consideration."