

RM1.74b in **lost** water revenue

> Selangor, Penang and Sabah recorded highest losses, says association

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PETALING JAYA: An estimated RM1.74 billion in revenue was lost in 2010 due to non-revenue water, said a research think-tank for water and energy.

The Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia said the loss amounted to 42.7% of the total revenue of the water services sector of RM4.06 billion in 2010.

In a statement yesterday, association president S. Piarapakaran, said the estimated revenue loss due

to non-revenue water in 2008, 2009 and 2010 amounted to RM 4.99 billion.

He also said Selangor recorded the highest losses, followed by Penang and Sabah.

He said while the non-revenue water percentage dropped from 36.63% in 2009 to 36.67% in 2010, the overall volume of treated water loss increased by 3.5% from 1.80 billion cubic meters in 2009 to 1.87 billion cubic metres in 2010.

Piarapakaran said the association

stands by its proposed target of 20% national non-revenue water by 2020, refuting the National Water

Services Commission's (SPAN) statement that the 20% target is not achievable and not economical.

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Piarapakaran said for the 20% target to be achieved, all water operators must be regulated under the Water Services Industry Act 2006.

"Through this, a stricter key performance index (KPI) and a National Non-Revenue Water Reduction Action Plan must be put in place.

"A KPI must also officers in SPAN Ministry of Energy, Technology and Water," he said.

He called on state governments that have yet to transfer to the Water Services Industry Act system to do so to speed up their process as any delay in

restructuring would deny improvements in water services infrastructure which would benefit the rakyat.

Piarapakaran said the SPAN and ministry KPI was to ensure the action plan will be prepared for Malaysia by 2012.

The association president said the action plan should contain a detailed time frame and technical guideline and be made available for public viewing.

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