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## **REUSE WASTEWATER AS AN ALTERNATIVE SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE**

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) Dr Xavier Jayakumar urges the Malaysian public, particularly the industrial and agricultural sectors to reuse wastewater as an alternative resource, which is sustainable and highly potential in effective water management.

According Dr Xavier, the technological advancement used in the treatment of wastewater should bolster confidence among Malaysians as it is at par with other developed countries.

“The national wastewater company, Indah Water Konsortium (IWK) Sdn Bhd has conducted various research into the development of bioproducts from wastewater, namely in the forms of biosolids (fertiliser), bioeffluent (water) and biogas (electricity source). IWK treats the wastewater, which is mostly released into the river, mainly contributing to the water sources for the nation. The treated effluent released by IWK consistently adheres to the regulation established by Jabatan Alam Sekitar which is Standard A and B.

“The high quality standard of treated effluent can be reused as an alternative water source for the nation. Affirmatively, IWK has the potential to produce non-potable water and KATS will gives its emphasis and focus on Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) projects, as the outcome from the plants can be reused especially when the nation faces water crisis during the draught season such as El Nino which is expected to hit soon,” said Dr Xavier during his official working visit to IWK in the Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, a plant operated and maintained by IWK, today.

The Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, Kuala Lumpur, is the first underground sewage treatment plant in Malaysia, and also the largest in Asia Pacific. Originally, the plant adopted the aerated lagoon system which can only serve 877,000 population equivalent. Now, the plant applies green technology elements which can accommodate up to 1.423 million population equivalent.

This plant also incorporates the Advance Anaerobic-Anoxic-Oxic (Advance AAO) technology, contributing to environmental cleanliness and is more consumer-friendly. Of the benefits of the technology include the ability to treat and produce higher standards of effluent quality, efficient disposal of pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus that exist in high concentration and a more stable operation. It also consists of systems that harvest rainwater (cleaning purposes), reuse bioeffluent (for cleaning and landscaping), reuse biogas and solar panel (electricity generation to support plant operation) as a green technology initiative.

The ground level of the plant is developed into a local recreational area called Pantai Eco Park. Spanning a 12-hectare area excluding the sewage treatment plant, the Pantai Eco Park is equipped with amenities such as a community hall, jogging track, futsal court, football field and badminton court.

During the visit, Dr Xavier commended IWK for their commitment in operating efficiently despite facing various challenges, namely financial constraints, while dated assets require restoration work.

“I am proud to witness the evolution in the national sewerage industry from septic tanks or pour flushes from 25 years ago to an underground sewerage system that spans across a 19,134km network of sewage pipes with about 6,745 sewage treatment plants that are well-maintained by IWK.

“It is evident that IWK faces many challenges from the financial aspect in operating large assets that are dated. As such, KATS will discuss with the National Water Services Commission (SPAN) to assist IWK in this matter,” added Dr Xavier.

Chief Executive Officer of IWK, Faizal Othman further explained that bioeffluent produced from wastewater will reduce the demand for existing water resource particularly for non-potable water.

According to Faizal, the bioeffluent produced from IWK’s sewage treatment plants reused as non-potable water in Klang Valley is approximately 500 MLD, which is around 10 per cent of the water production.

“IWK has also identified a few plants specifically those within the proximity of industrial areas such as Shah Alam, Bandar Baru Bangi, Bayan Baru, Seberang Perai and Kulim, which have potential in producing water for industrial use,” said Faizal.

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#### ABOUT IWK

*Indah Water Konsortium Sdn Bhd (Indah Water), is a sewerage services company owned by Minister of Finance Incorporated, Malaysia. Indah Water is responsible for providing sewerage services, operating and maintaining more than 6,000 sewage treatment plants and 19,134km networks of sewerage pipelines serving 25.2 million Connected Population Equivalent (PE). Our expertise include Operations and Maintenance, Refurbishment, Planning & Policy Strategy, Engineering & Process Review, Project Planning, Project Management, EIA and HAZOP Studies, Training Services & Module Development, Research & Development, Capacity Building and Community Awareness & Education Program. IWK was awarded the Water Industry Achievement Award (Best Sewage Treatment Plant Award) by Malaysian Water Association in 2016, which further spurred our vision to become Asia’s premier sewerage company.*

For more information on IWK, please visit our website at [www.iwk.com.my](http://www.iwk.com.my)