



KERATAN AKHBAR

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ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE

Govt begins mapping underground water resources

KUALA LUMPUR: The Water, Land and Natural Resources Ministry has begun a study on alternative water sources.

Its minister, Dr Xavier Jayakumar, said the study would map the country's untapped underground water resources.

He said the ministry had already spoken to experts from other countries, who would provide technology for 4D mapping of underground water resources.

"Malaysia has got huge resources of surface water, but we have a larger resource of underground water which we have not tapped. We have about five trillion cubic meters of underground water," he said at the soft launch of the Malaysia International Water Convention 2019 at Pantai 2 Sewage Treatment Plant. Jayakumar said a study on un-



Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar (centre) with Malaysia Water Association deputy president Mohamad Asari Daud (left) and Indah Water Konsortium chief executive officer Faizal Ohman at the soft launch of the Malaysia International Water Convention 2019 yesterday. PIC BY NURUL SHAFINA JEMENON

derground water had been initiated several years ago but had

been abandoned midway. He said the study recommenced when he took over the ministry.

Jayakumar also said the Mineral and Geoscience Department already had data on the location of underground water reserves nationwide.

"So the first step has already been taken. Now we must find the source of continuous supply, how to tap this and how far they are from our present assets.

"We want to use the data and collaborate with some friends to get exact figures and places to look for underground water," he said.

Jayakumar said he hoped Malaysians would understand that the process could not be done overnight.

"There is planning involved and also the supply and demand factor.

"This has to be an ongoing pro-

cess whereby states and water companies along with the federal government have to inject continuous funds in order to make sure the water industry is running smoothly throughout," he said.

He added that the study was expected to be completed in a year.

Meanwhile, Jayakumar said he had instructed the Water Supply Department to conduct a full audit on all states with regard to the current state of the water industry.

He said with better data from the states, the ministry would be able to identify and plan the direction of the industry.

"At present, we don't have actual data on what is required and what is happening in the states. Sorry to say that we are firefighting in all the states."