

KERATAN AKHBAR



SURAT KHABAR	:	THE STAR (STARMETRO)		
TARIKH	:	12/11/2019	MUKA SURAT	: 5
JABATAN	:	SPAN / SADA		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

KEDAH

JV firm tackles non-revenue water

Its priority to replace nearly 9,000km of old asbestos cement pipes

SMARTPIPE Technology Sdn Bhd has formed a joint-venture company with Menteri Besar Kedah Incorporated (MBI Kedah) to undertake non-revenue water (NRW) and other water-related projects to remedy the NRW situation in Kedah.

This is in line with Syarikat Air Darul Aman's (Sada) mission to address the situation via sustainable infrastructure planning and development that will lead to attaining the stability of water supply in the state.

Kedah remains as one of the states in Malaysia with high NRW percentage, averaging 47.4% between 2015 and 2018. As at August 2019, Kedah's NRW reading stood at 49.3%, which is 1.9% higher than the historical average.

Sada has identified ageing water pipeline network as the main cause of the high reading. Smartpipe Technology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Bhd, is an integrated water solutions provider specialising in pipe rehabilitation and replacement works.

It is the sole company authorised by Netherlands-based Wavin Overseas B.V to sell and instal compact pipe and Wavin's other pipe rehabilitation products in Malaysia. The product line boasts competitive environmental, social and long-term economic and technological advan-

tages over currently available products.

Combining its expertise in trenchless pipe rehabilitation with its experience in conventional pipe replacement works, Smartpipe Technology is ready to help resolve the NRW issues via the joint-venture company incorporated as Darul Aman Water Solutions Sdn Bhd (DAWS). MBI Kedah is the majority shareholder of DAWS at 51%.

DAWS' immediate priority is to either rehabilitate or replace the asbestos cement water pipes, most of which are ageing, in Kedah.

Of the 13,159km water pipeline network in the northern state, 8,942km — or approximately 67.9% — are made of asbestos cement.

The joint-venture agreement was signed by MBI Kedah chief executive officer Dr Mahadi Mohamad and Perangsang Selangor managing director and group chief executive officer Ahmad Fariz Hassan. The signing was witnessed by Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, Kedah public works, water supply, water resources and energy committee chairman Datuk Zaini Yusuf, Perangsang Selangor chairman Raja Shahreen Raja Othman and Smartpipe Technology chairman Rita Benoy Bushon. Ahmad Fariz said Perangsang Selangor was honoured to be

given the opportunity to play a pivotal role in paving the way to ensure sustainability of water supply in Kedah.

"With Smartpipe's proven technical expertise in the areas of pipe rehabilitation and replacement, we are confident that Darul Aman Water Solutions Sdn Bhd will be able to gradually tame the NRW situation in Kedah to more manageable levels in the next few years, as planned.

"Guided by MBI Kedah's vision and supported by our expertise, he assured that DAWS will be instrumental in carrying out one of the major sustainable development plans, which is to provide solutions for NRW that we are all in dire need of," he concluded.



Ahmad Fariz (front, right) and Mahadi exchanging the documents after signing the joint-venture agreement, with Mukhriz (centre) witnessing the signing.