



KERATAN AKHBAR

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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# PAAB takes water sustainability programmes to school

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd (PAAB) is embarking on a Schools Sustainability Programme in areas affected by the Langkat 2 project.

PAAB, fully owned by Ministry of Finance Incorporated, is responsible for building and managing water assets, reservoirs and treatment plants. These assets will be leased back to water operators.

Its chairman, Datuk Seri Dr Nik Norzrul Thani Nik Hassan Thani, said this year, the company's corporate communications department had reviewed the company's positioning in corporate social responsibility (CSR) and they wanted to come up with a new approach.

"It is part of our mandate to give back to society," he said at the PAAB office recently.

He said PAAB wanted to strengthen this aspect and starting this year, its sustainable-based CSR pillars would cover the environment, educational, community and volunteerism aspects.

Nik Norzrul said under the environment pillar, championing a cause involving the water industry came naturally to the company.

"We want to raise the issue of

clean water and water preservation as it was found that treated water is being taken for granted in this country," he said.

"Despite high usage, our water rate is among the lowest in the world.

"I was in South Korea recently and treated water was not easy to process, so we want to ensure that this environmental aspect is appreciated."

He said the company wanted to promote awareness on the scarcity of clean and treated water, so this would be part of the element in schools, such as in extracurricular activities.

He said the company was aware that its business might affect the community, so PAAB was adamant in engaging them and doing its best to minimise any hurdle due to the development of the project.

On volunteerism, he said employees, such as those in the Employees Recreational Club, would be encouraged to participate and dedicate their free time to the CSR programme.

He said they would also have campaigns on water savings at schools, educational talks on water and a trip to the plant so that the community would have a sense of belonging to the project.

He hoped that by having a good relationship with locals, pupils would be inspired to be part of a team that helped in water sanitation.

The schools that will participate in the programme include SMK Taman Kosas, SMK Dusing Nanding, SK Ampang and SK Dusing Nanding.

The programmes aim to involve about 5,000 students.

He said the company also worked with the District Education Office and the schools' management to implement the programme.

"After one year of having this programme, we will see how it goes."

"We want to see a continuity of the CSR after that," he said, adding that they were also looking into expanding the programme to other areas.

Previously, the company's CSR programmes were carried out in migrated states that had transferred its assets to PAAB and non-migrated states in partnership with the state government, water operators and communities.

He hoped that by being closer to the public, they would be the agent of change in the move towards having clean water for everyone.



Pengurusan Aset Air Bhd chairman Datuk Seri Dr Nik Norzrul Thani Nik Hassan Thani says Malaysia's water rate is among the lowest in the world.