



KERATAN AKHBAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	SUNDAY STAR		
TARIKH	:	21/10/2018	MUKA SURAT	: 13
JABATAN	:	SPAN		
KLASIFIKASI	:	PERHATIAN		

SPAN: Our tap water is clean, safe and free of E-Coli bacteria

PETALING JAYA: The water supply system in Malaysia is not only clean and safe to drink but also free from E-Coli bacteria, says Datuk Mohd Ridhuan Ismail.

Water treated and supplied adhered to the minimum quality standard set by the Health Ministry based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Water Quality Guideline, added the National Water Service Commission (SPAN) chief executive officer.

"To ensure that the water quality is always safe and guaranteed, continuous surveillance is done by all relevant parties including water operators, the Health Ministry and SPAN," he said in a statement yesterday.

On Wednesday, Water, Land and Natural Resources Minister Dr Xavier Jayakumar told Parliament that it was safe to drink tap water.

Mohd Ridhuan said water operators were responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the treatment process on a continuous basis.

The ministry, which started the Drinking Water Quality Surveillance Programme since 1983, had been sampling water from plants and distribution systems to check on the quality supplied by operators, said Mohd Ridhuan.

"No less than 38 types of physical, chemical

and microbiological parameters are analysed, starting from the water treatment plant intake until the distribution system with cooperation from the Chemistry Department.

"There are 6,108 sampling stations at all 500 water treatment plants and water supply systems nationwide with more than 186,000 samples," he added.

SPAN had also been conducting periodic audits at all water treatment plants to ensure treatments were effective, he said.

At the same time, Mohd Ridhuan also debunked claims from several press statements that tap water in Malaysia contained E-Coli bacteria detrimental to public health.

"E-Coli is among the microbiology parameters analysed continuously by water operators and the Health Ministry. As a result, water from the public water supply system is free from E-Coli," he said.

Mohd Ridhuan also gave the assurance that at the last stage of water treatment and before water was distributed, operators were tasked to ensure that there was free chlorine residual of at least 0.2l/mg (milligram per litre) in the treated water to kill off E-Coli bacteria that could possibly exist should there be pollution in the supply system.