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Stop making excuses for water woes

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Every time, the answer is the same: Pollution. Inadvertent dumping in our waterways. Priding ourselves as a first-world nation, shouldn't we start considering first-world solutions? -- NSTP Archive

By MEGAT SHAH RIZAL NOOR IKHSAN (/authors/megat-shah-rizal-noor-ikhsan) - July 30, 2019 @ 11:50pm

WE see pictures of people with buckets and canisters in a long line behind a water truck thinking it is a picture from a third-world nation. No, it is not. It is Malaysia, a nation that prides itself as being on its way to becoming a developed nation. And it's very recent, some time this year.

Are we facing a drought? Do we lack water? Again, the answer is no. As recent as yesterday, we had heavy rain that was supposed to fill our rivers and reservoirs, yet we still face water shortage.

And every time, the answer is the same: Pollution. Inadvertent dumping in our waterways. Priding ourselves as a first-world nation, shouldn't we start considering first-world solutions?

I read with great interest Singapore's plan for subterranean caverns that will include underground water reservoirs. I discovered that this has been the practice for a while in many countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States and the Netherlands.

I believe it can improve security, reduce evaporation, allow the harvesting of rain and reduce the need to destroy large swathes of forest or land for dams.

Water is the lifeblood of any nation and industry. Having frequent cuts will not endear Malaysia to potential investors that depend on a reliable and consistent water source.

For a country that wants to be considered a first-world nation, we shouldn't be reading anymore excuses for pollution and sabotage, shrugging our shoulders and feeling helpless to think about our next course of action, conveniently forgetting about the matter until the next disaster happens.

Come up with a first-world solution and stop giving excuses.

MEGAT SHAH RIZAL NOOR IKHSAN

Taman Melawati, Kuala Lumpur

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