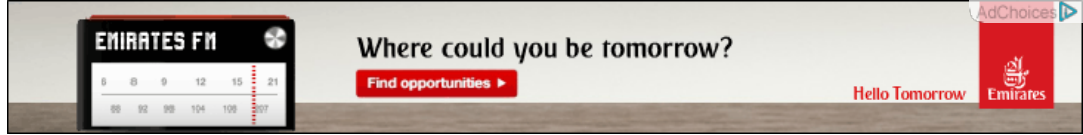


## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



18 March 2014 | last updated at 12:01AM

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### WATER: Paying the price for wasting water

By Megat Shah Rizal Noor Ikhsan, Hulu Kelang, Selangor

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THE water crisis is testament to our irresponsible behaviour in using limited water resources. Many still waste water. We have to accept that we are extravagant in our use of water and we are now paying the price.

Not much has been done to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) wasted through leaks in ageing pipes. Even with green technology, little is being done to encourage rain water harvesting. If rain is collected and channelled for treatment, it will mean additional water resources. Instead, we keep relying on dams and rivers, which can easily be contaminated, thus disrupting supply.

River contamination is another issue. Some of us have no pride in our rivers and continue to dump rubbish indiscriminately.

Enforcement is also lacking. We still have backyard industries close to rivers which contaminate rivers with impunity. But little is being done to keep the rubbish and contamination away and much less to rehabilitate our rivers.

We can no longer be caught off-guard every year when dealing with water shortage. An even more serious issue is the effect it may have on industry. The country may no longer be a viable location for investments because of unstable water supply.

With this in mind federal, state and local governments need to get their act together and, together with corporations and residence associations, come up with a long term solution to ensure that we:

**HAVE** uninterrupted supply of clean water;

**KEEP** rubbish and contaminants away from our rivers;

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**FIND** a way to harness rainwater;

**STOP** wasting water by changing our mind-set and behaviour;

**INTRODUCE** stricter laws with stricter enforcement to ensure rivers and dams are not contaminated;

**USE** all effort to reduce non-revenue water; and,

**GALVANISE** all our resources to rehabilitate our rivers.



Seek alternative water supply instead of relying on dams and rivers.

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