

Tajuk : Potential solution treated water problem

## Potential solution to treated water problem

BY FLORENCE GENTIA

**SELANGAU:** The introduction of Ultra Filtration (UF) system has the potential to solve the problem of clean and treated water supply in the remote areas of Sarawak and Sabah.

UF system was designed by the engineering team from University Malaya (UM) with University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and Malaysia Innovation Hub which collaborated in the implementation of the system to treat drinking water in the state.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Joseph Entulu Belau described the UF system either the one using solar energy or electricity costing more than RM100, 000 per unit was worthwhile to look at in view of the situation in Sarawak.

"My intention is to provide the project to all rural areas in Sarawak and Sabah subject to funding. In Peninsular Malaysia, the need may not be so desperate, so priorities and focus is on Sarawak and Sabah."

"Just now, I discussed a little bit about the alternatives that we might try to find the funds," explained him.

He told reporters this after officiating at the demonstration of Ultra Filtration (UF) to treat the drinking water in Rumah Senabong, here yesterday.

Entulu, who is also Selangau Member of Parliament, stressed that the UF system that had been installed in Rumah Senabong would be maintained as it was financed through funds donated by the Ministry of Higher Education.

He also urged the community leaders (Penghulu) in the Parliament constituency of Selangau to submit a list of longhouses for that purpose.

"Yes, I need a list of the longhouses because we cannot give (UF system) to each longhouse due to the cost constraints."

"So, what I want to plan is where the locations of the longhouses, the number of households in the respective longhouse, then that area will be a major focus and the area must be far from the road."

"In my planning, the location of the longhouses, probably those not enjoying the water from the system, will be our focus," he said.

While for short longhouses or single houses, he said he would think the other ways either to maintain a system of gravity feed.

When asked about the comparison between UF systems with Life Saver, Entulu explained that in the long term in terms of the cost of UF system was more worthwhile while life saver required a lot of services and the service has been distributed to several places in Sarawak.

UF system is funded through grants from the Ministry of Higher Education and produces a working prototype that has been tested in several locations including Termeloh, Pahang, during floods at the end of 2014.

Among those present were UM department head Professor Ir Dr. Mohd Azlan Hussain, UM deputy dean Professor Dr. Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua, director of Industry Relations Division at the Ministry of Education Malaysia Associate Professor Dr. Artham Abdullah, Malaysia Innovation Hub (MIH) chief executive officer Vincent Wong Wai Sang and Dr. Nazeri Abdul Rahman from Department of Chemical Engineering and Sustainable Energy, Engineering Faculty of UNIMAS.

Also present were Penghulu Jirum Jurampang Ratoh, Penghulu Michael Jelani and local people.



**ENTULU** listening to short briefing on the operation of water production through the UF system from Professor Dr. Mohamed as Professor Ir Dr. Mohd Azlan (centre) and Michael (right) look on.