

## Groundwater is Naturally Better



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Malaysia, with a high annual rainfall, is not spared with lack of raw water episodes. The main reason is that both the domestic and industrial water supplies and irrigation water supplies are too dependent on surface water resources that is, highly dependent on recent rainwater. A quick-fix is to develop groundwater as a supplementary raw water supply for all users. Groundwater is an ancient rainwater that has been stored in the ground for ages. For sustainable groundwater development, an in-depth study of groundwater resources is necessary to ensure the success of groundwater development besides avoiding the inherent negative impacts. This paper is to redirect the current initiatives to diversify raw water

resources through the development of coastal water resources that include the construction of off-stream river storages, coastal reservoirs and underground dams. The development of coastal water resources involves massive infrastructure development and the development of coastal reservoirs involve new knowledge and technology and their long-term impacts on the environment is yet to be fully ascertained. The development of groundwater resources has many benefits besides small footprint for it harnesses the natural capitals. The latter include natural water storages, massive storage capacity and natural filter-plant functions. Thus, groundwater is naturally better.