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Sultan: Appreciate water – it's a small step with a big impact

KUALA KANGSAR: The water supply crisis around the world is not fiction, and this can become a reason for war, the Sultan of Perak warns.

Water shortage, said Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, is now a global phenomenon.

With the global population predicted to increase from 7.5 billion people currently to 9.9 billion in 2050, demand for potable water would also rise, he said.

"People need to be aware that if there's a shortage, it will cause a crisis because water is essential," he said, adding that one-fifth of the global population was reported to have no access to potable water.

"Water supply crisis is not a fiction. It can be a cause for war."

"Recently, several areas in this country also faced a shortage crisis until rationing had to be carried out," he said during the launch of the Kampung Senawar Water Treatment Plant here yesterday.

To minimise the risk of a crisis, Sultan Nazrin said both proactive and strategic actions needed to be planned and carried out.

These, he said, included preserving and conserving water sources such as catchment areas, better management and upgrading the irrigation system with the latest technology.

Other efforts, he said, were finding alternative sources like underground water, recycling, rain harvesting and educating consumers on

their awareness and responsibilities.

"Learn to appreciate and respect water by taking the first step of not throwing waste into drains or rivers," he said, adding that while this might seem like a small step, it had a big impact.

"Let us start with this small step together until we have awareness and it becomes a daily habit and culture," he said.

The Kampung Senawar plant, which began construction in August 2014, was completed in April last year.

With the completion of the RM46.2mil plant, the daily water output capacity for Kuala Kangsar and its surrounding areas increased from 43 million litres to 66 million.



Vital commodity: Sultan Nazrin and Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Zara Salim (sixth from right), accompanied by Perak Water Board general manager Datuk Mohd Yusof Mohd Isa (third from left), visiting the Kampung Senawar Water Treatment Plant in Kuala Kangsar.