

Malaysia

Research group urges task force on water theft



Water is seen flowing from an open pipe. — Reuters pic

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 16 — The Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia (Awer) today called on authorities to form a special task force to directly focus on reducing the huge water revenue losses through pipe leakages and theft.

Its president, S. Piarapakaran, said the National Water Services Commission and the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water should take the initiative to form the task force.

He said a study by the association showed that about RM1.6 billion in revenue was lost in 2009 because pipe leakages were rampant and maintenance was poor.

According to Piarapakaran, a modelling study by the association showed that most states in the country were not giving due consideration to maintain the water distribution system.

He told Bernama that the people could enjoy cheap and abundant water supply if such leakages and theft were brought under control.

The association also suggested that the ministry make the non-revenue-water (NRW), a leading KPI to determine the price of treated water. — Bernama