

Groups willing to meet over non-revenue water

PETALING JAYA: The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) is prepared to meet an NGO over the non-revenue water (NRW) issue.

"We are more than happy to discuss what Awer has brought up," said a spokesman from the commission.

The Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia (Awer) revealed recently that the country's water industry lost RM1.7bil to NRW in 2010.

NRW is water that has been treated and is "lost" either through leaks, thefts or metering inaccuracies before

reaching consumers.

Awer urged the commission to set proper procedures and guidelines to ensure that water quality was not compromised including preparing a National NRW Reduction Action Plan.

Awer president S. Piarapakaran said the association was prepared to meet the commission.

"We are not finding fault but finding ways to help the country move forward. To become a developed nation, we must be capable of managing our resources," he said.

Piarapakaran justified Awer's calcu-

lation methods that led to the RM1.7bil figure, saying it used the World Bank's methods and "calculated accurately" using official statistics published in the Malaysia Water Industry Guide.

He said Awer had forwarded some suggestions to the commission for its immediate action, including identifying critical, sub-critical and non-critical areas to allow the government and water operators to tackle the critical areas first,

A commission spokesman said the steps recommended by Awer had already been implemented.