

## **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND WATER DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME**

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### **Main Points**

#### **What we examined?**

- The Department of Environment (DOE) implemented the Environmental Quality Monitoring Programme (EQMP) for a period of 15 years from 2017 to 2032. The objectives of the programme are to continuously collect environmental quality data and also to provide an efficient, high-tech, comprehensive monitoring and detection system to prevent environmental pollution.
- The Audit covered two main areas, namely programme performance and programme management.
- Programme performance was assessed based on the achievement of outputs and outcomes. The output refers to physical achievement of EQMP monitoring stations and Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the monitoring stations. The outcomes refer to the effectiveness of the programme in achieving its objectives.
- The evaluation of programme management consisted of financial performance, relocation of monitoring station, procurement, payment management, measuring equipment of marine monitoring station, contract management and lease/rental site of monitoring station.
- The Audit was conducted in the DOE, an agency under the Ministry of Environment and Water. DOE was responsible for regulating the programme while company 1183186-X was appointed as a concession company to manage the operations of EQMP.

#### **Why is it important?**

- The cost of the programme was RM846.09 million which cover the Government's commitment during the concession period of 15 years.
- This Audit was conducted to assess whether the EQMP has been implemented prudently, efficiently and effectively to achieve its objectives, i.e. continuous collection of quality data and providing

an efficient high-tech, comprehensive monitoring system to prevent environmental pollution.

#### What we found?

- The Audit concluded that the EQMP was satisfactory in the KPIs compliance of monitoring stations namely, distribution of raw data, raw data reporting of automatic air quality monitoring stations and sampling of monitoring stations site. However, the Certificate of Acceptance (CoA) of monitoring stations and operation of monitoring stations were not effectively implemented. The absence of established methods and procedures for monitoring the early warnings receptor could affect the efficiency in taking follow-up actions. Weaknesses that need to be given attention were as follows:
  - Delays in issuing CoA between four to 15 months.
  - Automatic monitoring stations were not in operation for 298 and 1,169 days. In addition, the relocation of the station has yet to be implemented.
  - General display of real-time data did not cover all environmental quality monitoring components and the early warning systems which were unable to detect pollution affected the objectives of the programme.
  - The Photo Ionized Detector (PID) stations were not able to transmit real-time data to DOE as the software used for monitoring Systematic Approach For Emergency Response (SAFER) was not included in the PID procurement.
  - The absence of a clear and written payment procedure resulted in the weakness of the data review process that affected payment claims.
  - The weakness of the concession agreement clause had caused fixed EQMP charges to be paid throughout the concession period even though the station was not operating.
  - The lease/rental agreement of the environmental quality monitoring station was not prepared for up to 42 months from the date of the CoA of the monitoring station.

**What do we recommend?**

- To overcome the weaknesses highlighted and to ensure that no recurrence in the future, the National Audit Department recommends the following actions:
  - Review the relocation of monitoring stations periodically by taking into account factors such as measuring instrument technology, pollution sources and geographical conditions of monitoring stations in order to achieve the objectives of the programme in providing an efficient, high-tech and comprehensive pollution monitoring and detection system.
  - Review the concession agreement clause for the payment of fixed EQMP charges for stations that are not operating so that data transmission is obtained and to protect the Government's interests.
  - Take immediate action to finalize the lease and rental agreements on monitoring sites so that the lease and rental revenue can be collected by the Government.

