

5. CONCLUSION

The sewerage has undeniably been identified as one of the major public utility industry in the country that has been in dire straits. Despite its importance on the environment and the community at large, the development under the Local Authorities has often been found lagging and at most times, a worrying factor to the environment. The sewerage infrastructure was not considered enough to support the country that is fast developing. Insufficient fund, lack of skilled manpower and improper regulatory control were some of the contributory factors, which have been identified.

Thus, the sewerage privatisation was seen by many as the turning point to free the government from financial burden, to free the industry from political constraints and to help the private company achieve full economies of scale based on its natural monopoly status. Under the concession, IWK is obligated to provide an efficient sewerage system and quality in service. The privatisation has benefited the public in terms of improved living conditions with favourable effects on the government, the industry, the environment and the consumers. High investment cost, widespread development works and improved effluent quality standards were seen as spin-offs from the sewerage privatisation. The regulators entrusted to oversee the sewerage development and the regulations put in were meant to avoid the abuse of monopoly power by IWK and to reduce consumers' risks when it comes to issues such as sewerage tariffs.

With the proposed measures put forward in this paper, the progress of sewerage privatisation could perhaps be better than what it has achieved today and the problems it has so far encountered probably would not be so apparent. Though the success rate of the privatisation may not be obvious at this point, with continuous effort and determination, the long-term objective of the sewerage privatisation can be achieved.