



05 NOV, 2019

Net Energy Metering for Sabah next year

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia

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KUALA LUMPUR: DAP's Kota Kinabalu MP Chan Foong Hin

(pic) welcomed the announcement by Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (Mestec) Minister

Yeo Bee Yin that the Federal Government has approved a 50MW quota for the Net Energy Metering (NEM) programme in Sabah beginning Jan 1, 2020.

Yeo made the announcement in her winding-up speech on the 2020 Budget in Parliament here, Monday, in response to Chan who had, in his debate speech, requested that Mestec extend the NEM programme to Sabah.

"On Oct 4, Seda Chairman Wong Kah Woh and Board member Rajiv Rishyakaran visited Kota Kinabalu and listened to the issues faced by players in the renewable energy industry in Sabah. Exactly one month later today, the Mestec Minister announced the NEM approval for Sabah.

"This announcement shows the PH government truly cares about the voices and concerns raised by the grassroots, including those in East Malaysia, especially on energy concerns," said Chan.

The NEM programme, which had been applicable only to Peninsular Malaysia previously, has been very attractive as consumers will be able to generate their own clean energy using the solar PV system installed on available rooftops or car porches within their own premises.

The energy generated will be consumed first and any excess can be sold to the distribution licensee (in Sabah's case, to SESB) at the prevailing Displaced Cost prescribed by the Energy Commission.

The more energy generated from the solar PV system is self-consumed, the more NEM consumers can save their electricity bills (by reducing the electricity imported from the utility).

At the same time, consumers will contribute to the reduction of CO₂ emission, hence reducing the carbon footprint and mitigating climate change.

Yeo said during a post-Cabinet meeting recently, the Federal Government had decided to approve a 50 megawatts (MW) quota and RM13 million allocation in Sabah for the next 10 years, and that the funding would be sourced from the Electricity Supplies Industry Trust Account (AAIBE).

"I hope Sabah Members of Parliament could convey the news to operators and consumers in the State," she said.

Separately, Yeo told the Dewan Rakyat that she was informed by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal that the Sabah State Government has completed its due diligence on the acquisition of Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB).

"I will attend a meeting with the Chief Minister of Sabah to review the results of this due diligence study on Nov 11, 2019 in Kota Kinabalu. I can provide a more detailed update to YB Kota Kinabalu after the meeting," Yeo said.

Yeo said the Ministry needs the particulars to be laid out in detail in order for a smooth transfer of SESB operations to the Sabah State Government.

The Federal Cabinet had earlier approved the ownership of SESB to be handed to the State Government. It was reported that SESB, of which TNB owns 82.75 per cent, was facing insolvency as it continued to record losses.

On the construction of the Upper Padas Electric Hydro Project, Yeo said the Ministry is taking action to get approval for the projects.

"We should be patient and give time to the current government and let them work things thoroughly. I have faith that the Federal Government will work closely with the Sabah Government to build up a strong economy," said Chan.





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SUMMARIES

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