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BERNAMA NEWS

KeTTHA Identifies New Policy Mechanism To Accelerate Renewable Energy Growth In The Country

KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- The Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry (KeTTHA) has identified new policy mechanisms to accelerate renewable energy (RE) growth in Malaysia.

Its Deputy Minister, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, said as the RE Fund was rather limited and would not be able to support the growth of solar photovoltaics (PV) at greater scale, a new policy mechanism was a must to spur its growth in the country.

"Among others, the government will be introducing the net energy metering for residential, commercial and industrial sector. This will be a new policy instrument to be introduced outside the Feed-in-Tariff mechanism.

"We, together with Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) and Energy Commission are currently finalising the legal and regulatory framework for rolling out this mechanism by year-end," he said at the opening of Electric, Power and Renewable Energy (EPRE) here today.

Mahdzir said in addition to metering mechanism, the ministry was also finalising the framework for rolling out utility-scale solar PV in the country, beginning with Peninsular Malaysia.

"The utility-scale solar PV programme will be implemented through a bidding process to ensure the maximum benefit to the system by way of the most competitive pricing," he said.

Mahdzir said Malaysia also planned to further develop other indigenous RE resources as well as looking into off-grid installation or distributed generation to tap into RE potentials.

He said one of the areas that ministry was looking into included the development of a green grid in Sabah to connect the various palm oil mills that were scattered across the state without access to the electricity grid.

"The green grid is intended to transmit electricity generated from palm oil mills and interconnect with the nearest grid. The potential generation capacity is estimated at about 500 megawatts (MW)," he said.

Meanwhile, Mahdzir said, a total of 993.4MW in FIT quota had been approved by SEDA as of Feb 28, 2015, of which 264.8MW had been commissioned and were currently in operation.

Solar PV accounted for 69 per cent (or 181MW) of the total RE capacity in operation under the FIT mechanism while biomass accounted for 21 per cent (or 55.9 MW), he said. -- BERNAMA