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KUALA LUMPUR (Dec 31): The Energy Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced that it has appointed Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar as its new chairman, effective Jan 1, 2025.

Shamsul Azri takes over from Datuk Mohamad Razif Abd Mubin, who has been serving as acting chairman since September this year following the resignation of Mohammed Rashdan Mohd Yusof, who stepped down less than two years after his appointment in February 2023.

Prior to Mohamad Razif, the EC chairmanship was held by Mohammed Rashdan Mohd Yusof, who was appointed in February 2023.

Rashdan, also known as Danny, whose appointment to the EC caught attention due to his position as deputy group managing director of Gamuda Bhd (KL: GAMUDA) at the time, left the commission in August this year after 18 months on the job, according to sources.

Shamsul, 55, currently serves as chief secretary to the government, a role he assumed in August this year, succeeding Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali after his two-year contract expired.

“He has extensive experience spanning over 30 years in the public service. He has served in various agencies, including the Ministry of Finance, the Public Service Department, the public-private partnership unit (Ukas) and the state government administration.

“EC welcomes the leadership of Shamsul to elevate EC’s agenda to greater heights,” the commission said in a statement.

It is worth noting that according to a circular on the guidelines for management and governance of federal statutory bodies dated April 30, 2024, a chairman of a statutory body cannot be appointed among public servants, to ensure focus on their original roles.

However, this is contingent on the statutory body’s establishment act, said the circular, signed by then-chief secretary to the government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, who left office in August.

That said, the Energy Commission Act states that the chairman shall not, while holding such office, hold any other office or employment, whether remunerated or not “without the Minister’s prior written approval”.

Separately, the EC’s chief executive officer Datuk Razib Dawood is scheduled to leave on Jan 31, according to sources, ending a stint of five years and five months for the engineer by training at the commission’s top executive post.

The top changes at the EC come at a time when the government is reviewing the Peninsular Malaysia’s tiered electricity tariff structure, amid expectations of rising energy demand from industries as well as higher fossil fuel power generation costs.

The conclusion of the review is expected to be revealed by July 2025, until which the existing tariffs remain in place in 1H2025.

The country is also experiencing accelerated solar adoption, with strong support from the government through relaxed rules and extended quota for solar installations, as well record-low solar panel prices currently.

In December alone, the government has increased the rooftop solar quota for both households and industrial sectors, extended the rebate for solar system installations for domestic users, abolished the quota on solar panel installations for non-domestic users, as well as introduced the new long-term subscription packages for the green electricity tariff programme. It also announced the biggest large-scale solar project to-date under the LSS programme at 500MW, from 100MW previously.

Earlier, the EC also announced the enforcement of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2024 [Act 861] and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Regulations 2024, effective Jan 1.



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