

Headline	Sabah best placed for solar, bio-energy		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	05 Jan 2024	Language	English
Circulation	25,055	Readership	75,165
Section	Nation	Page No	4
ArticleSize	292 cm <sup>2</sup>	Journalist	Nikko Fabian
PR Value	RM 4,653		



# Sabah best placed for solar, bio-energy

**Nikko Fabian**

KOTA KINABALU: Exploring and using renewable energy (RE) sources offers more advantages to Sabah in the long run.

Renewable energy helps reduce negative impacts on the environment, reduce air pollution, and supports sustainable development, said Nominated Assemblywoman Datuk Aminah Yassin.

In her debate speech at the hearing of the Renewable Energy 2024 Bill Wednesday in Sabah and throughout Malaysia could help provide cleaner energy sources and build a more sustainable future.

Currently, she said the Federal Govern-



AT THE STATE ASSEMBLY

ment still provides diesel subsidies for electricity generation at a rate of RM1.50 for 1 Kilowatt Per Hour compared to Renewable Energy such as hydro energy, solar, biomass and more, only requiring a cost subsidy of 31.5 cents for 1 Kilowatt Per Hour.

"The total diesel subsidy for electricity generation is as much as RM1.27 billion which is 44 per cent of the RM2.89 billion subsidy from 2016 to 2021 to Sabah," she said, adding electricity generation uses diesel which is known to be expensive to operate and pollutes the environment.

"It's time we switch to more environmentally friendly and cheap electricity generation projects..."

"The Federal Government needs to speed up and ensure the reduction of funds and approvals such as the Upper Padas Hydroelectric, Hulu Padas and Sungai Maligan Hydropower Projects, solar projects even after the State Government takes over the regulation of electricity in Sabah," she said.

Aminah stressed that Sabah receives the highest solar radiation of 1,861 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> compared to other states in Malaysia.

"Since solar radiation is relatively high, solar PV energy is considered a viable RE option for the State.

"Based on a study by the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (Seda), Sabah has a potential capacity of 99.4 GW that can be produced through PV solar energy," she said.

Amisah added that Sabah also has high potential in using bio-energy from residual products, especially from palm oil activities.

According to Seda, she said biomass is the largest source of bio-energy in Sabah

with a potential capacity of around 561 MW from more than 26.2 million tonnes of biomass from oil palm plantations.

She said that with many river valleys in Sabah, the State could also take advantage of the potential to produce hydropower, both small and large scale, with a potential capacity of 1.1 GW.

"For geothermal, a study led by the Department of Minerals and Geosciences, identified about 100 MW of potential geothermal resources in Tawau," she added.

Amisah fully supported the establishment of the Sabah Energy Commission to ensure the State Government is always on the right track in energy matters in the State.