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## Malaysia's nuclear decision depends on preparedness across 19 key areas EC



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KUALA LUMPUR (June 4): Malaysia's decision on whether to launch a nuclear power programme will depend on its level of preparedness across 19 key areas, which mostly focus on safety, said Energy Commission (EC) chief executive officer Siti Safinah Salleh.

These key areas include nuclear safety, radiation protection, radioactive waste management and site and supporting facilities.

She said the country must first ensure readiness in those areas before deciding whether to proceed with nuclear power development, given that nuclear energy is one of the components in the transition to clean energy.

"There are 19 building blocks that we have to

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be prepared for. Once you are ready, then we can take the next step in the conversation — do we want to do it?" she said during a panel discussion at the Energy Transition Conference 2026 (ETCon26) here on Thursday.

Siti Safinah was referring to the International Atomic Energy

Agency's (IAEA) Milestones Approach, which outlines 19 infrastructure issues a country must evaluate before deciding whether to launch a nuclear power programme.

The 19 infrastructure issues identified under the IAEA's Milestones Approach include national position, nuclear safety, legislative framework, safeguards, regulatory framework, radiation protection, electrical grid, human resource development, stakeholder involvement, and site and supporting facilities.

The list includes environmental protection, emergency planning, security and physical protection, procurement, radioactive waste management, industrial involvement, funding and financing, the nuclear fuel cycle and radioactive waste management.

According to earlier news reports, Malaysia is exploring the use of nuclear energy as part of its long-term energy mix to meet surging electricity demand and achieve its 2050 net-zero carbon emission targets.

Energy Commission  
chief executive officer  
Siti Safinah Salleh.



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