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Ongkili: Selangor water takeover agreement might miss deadline: The discussion between the Selangor state government and Syarikat Pengeluar Air Selangor Holdings Bhd might be extended beyond its present deadline.



PG 2

Ongkili: Selangor water takeover agreement might miss deadline

Federal govt will have the option to take over the water concessionaire if the discussion fails

by **PREMALATHA JAYARAMAN**

THE discussion between the Selangor state government and Syarikat Pengeluar Air Selangor Holdings Bhd (Splash) to take over the water concessionaire might be extended beyond its present deadline.

Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johny Ongkili disclosed yesterday that the discussion between the two parties is still ongoing.

"The most I can say is that the closing date is on Oct 7 today, for the completion of the takeover of Splash. The discussion is ongoing and we expect to extend the negotiation between the Selangor government and the water concessionaire," he told reporters after the opening of the 7th International GreenTech and Eco-Products Exhibition and Conference Malaysia 2016 (IGEM 2016) yesterday.

Ongkili had previously said the federal government would

have the option to take over the water concessionaire under Section 114 of the Water Services Industry Act 2006, if the discussion failed.

The Selangor government had offered RM250.6 million to buy Gamuda Bhd's stake in Splash.

Gamuda in response said this exercise will result in a divestment loss of RM920 million.

Asked whether the federal government will finance the purchase of Splash, Ongkili said it is also in the middle of discussion.

"We are now discussing it but the Selangor state government has not submitted to us on how much they need to purchase the asset."

Prior to this, Ongkili had expressed confidence that both sides would meet the deadline to resolve the long-drawn water restructuring issue in Selangor.

Meanwhile, in his opening remarks at IGEM 2016, Ongkili

said Malaysia's green growth strategy will encompass climate-resilient development and sustainable use of natural resources.

He said the strategy focuses mainly on achieving the country's sustainable development agenda and ensuring Malaysia's success in the new global economy by embarking on a low carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive development, which will diversify and transform existing economic sectors, improve the quality of life and well-being of people, and reduce the environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

Ongkili maintained that solar is now the fastest growing renewable energy and Malaysia is well positioned to take this advantage, being the world's third-largest manufacturer of photovoltaic (PV) cell and module.

Malaysia, he said, is the top

exporter of solar panels to the US, with a 5GW annual production capacity, with an annual revenue of RM20.81 billion and more than 17,000 jobs created as at December 2015.

Ongkili said solar PV installation in Malaysia has achieved a 221.33MW capacity under the feed-in-tariff mechanism, surpassing the national target of 175MW by 2020, set under the National Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan 2011.

Earlier this year, he said the government had approved the National Energy Efficiency Plan to manage energy demand efficiently.

The action plan aims to reduce energy consumption by 52,233GW-hours over the next 10 years, by strengthening institutional frameworks, developing skilled capacity, establishing sustainable funding mechanics, promoting investment and integrating energy-efficient initiatives.

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Pic by Ismail Che Rus

KeTTHA Secretary General Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang (second from left), TNB president Datuk Seri Azman Mohd (third from left) and Ongkili (fifth from left) at IGEM 2016 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.