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Resolving power woe now Sabah's

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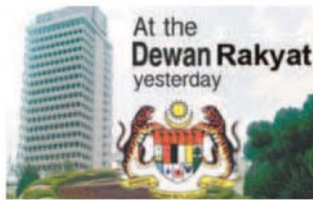
KUALA LUMPUR: The Federal Government is committed to and support the electricity generation development agenda in Sabah.

According to the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (Petra), the indicative subsidy ceiling from the Federal Government to Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) for 2024 to 2030 is RM3.54 billion.

"This includes fuel subsidies, large-scale solar subsidies, tariff support subsidies, and Renewable Energy (FiT) subsidies.

"This amount is based on an analysis conducted by the Energy Commission (ST) if the Sabah Government implements electricity tariff adjustments for that period.

"These subsidies must be applied for by SESB through the Sabah State Government and are subject to consideration and approval by the Ministry of Finance," said Petra in a written response to Datuk Seri Wilfred Madius Tangau (pic) (Tuaran Upko) during the Oral Question session at



the Parliament sitting here on Tuesday.

In his question, Madius asked Petra to state the Ministry's efforts to ensure that SESB no longer relies on tariff subsidy support from the Federal Government and that the reserve margin reaches over 30 per cent by 2030.

The Ministry informed that to reduce SESB's dependence on subsidies from the Federal Government, the basic electricity tariff in Sabah needs to be reviewed to reflect the actual cost.

"However, following the transfer of regulatory power for electricity supply to the Sabah Government on January 3, 2024, the setting of electricity tariffs and all planning for electricity generation develop-

ment plans, procurement, monitoring and supervision of projects, as well as resolution of issues and problems related to electricity supply in Sabah are fully under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

"Based on information submitted by the Energy Commission of Sabah (ECoS), several major generation projects are being planned.

"These include energy purchases from Sarawak by 2025, development of new power plants with a capacity of 100MW each in 2026 and 2027, and development of a large-scale solar farm with a capacity of 100MW in 2026.

"The Sabah Government will also update this planning through the Sabah Electricity Generation Development Plan every year through the Sabah Energy Council meeting expected to be held in the second quarter of 2024," said Petra.

The Ministry informed the Sabah Government is also understood to be implementing initiatives to increase the potential of electricity generation through hydro sources in Sabah through the results of the Hydro Development Plan study being developed by ECoS.

According to Petra, the State Government will also explore transmission line planning through Sabah and North Kalimantan interconnection, exploration of new generation technologies and sources such as geothermal, wind and hydrogen.

"These plans will also be refined and discussed through the Sabah Energy Council.

"Additional measures taken by the State Government through ECoS include the introduction of the Demand Side Management (DSM) incentive scheme, and the launch of the Selco-PV Sabah programme to increase the use of solar PV and promote energy efficiency and conservation.

"This campaign has begun with the premises of State and Federal Government Departments in Sabah facilitated by ECoS.

"With the strategic approach by the Sabah Government through ECoS and SESB to increase generation capacity and reduce energy demand during peak hours, the Federal Government believes that electricity supply problems in Sabah can be reduced and achieve a 30 per cent reserve margin by 2030," said Petra.