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SHIELD AGAINST SUPPLY WOES

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We can't afford to rely solely on hydro or gas for power, says Fadillah

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MALAYSIA cannot afford to depend on only a single energy source, such as hydropower or gas, and must broaden its energy mix, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof yesterday.

Fadillah, who is also energy transition and water transformation minister, said diversification of energy sources must be prioritised as the world increasingly faced extreme weather events that could destabilise energy supply.

"We need to be prepared in terms of energy — including gas, biofuel, biomass, solar and wind — so that we have a good energy mix," he said after the Petra Skwad Zon Sarawak programme at the Batang Ai hydroelectric dam in Lubok Antu, near here, yesterday.

Fadillah said the approach was essential to ensure the country always had alternative energy sources should disruptions occur to the global supply.

He stressed that energy security must go hand in hand with affordability to ensure that the public and industries could bear the supply cost.

"But at the same time, in developing our nation's energy sector, we must also care for the environment."

On the Batang Ai Dam, Fadillah

said it was Sarawak's first hydroelectric plant, developed in 1985 in collaboration with a Japanese company, and was capable of generating 108MW of power through four turbines.

"After 40 years of operation, the dam has had its lifespan extended by another 30 years, proving that the project is truly sustainable.

"Besides supplying green energy, the dam has also made significant contributions to Sarawak's economic development, particularly in the energy sector."

Fadillah said Sarawak Energy Bhd was collaborating with a Chinese firm on a floating solar project at the same location.

"The floating solar project is capable of generating around 50MW of energy, further strengthening the use of renewable energy in the state.

"This will expand Sarawak's energy mix to include solar and gas. Currently, hydro sources

make up between 60 and 70 per cent of its energy mix."

Fadillah added that a floating hybrid solar initiative was also being implemented by Tenaga Nasional Bhd in Peninsular Malaysia at Tasik Kenyir, with the capacity to generate 500MW.

"New projects are being implemented at the Bakun and Murum hydroelectric dams which, when operational, will together be capable of generating a total of 1,500MW of energy," he added.



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DATUK SERI FADILLAH YUSOF
Deputy Prime Minister