



13 APR, 2026

Diversifying energy sources to face current challenges

New Sarawak Tribune, Malaysia



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SIMANGGANG: Malaysia needs to diversify its energy sources to ensure the future security of the energy sector in facing current challenges.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, Datuk Amar Fadillah Yusof, stressed the need for the nation to explore various energy options due to ongoing global energy supply disruptions and increasingly unpredictable extreme weather conditions.

He said the country cannot rely solely on existing energy sources such as hydropower and gas, highlighting the importance of expanding energy options to ensure sufficient supply for the people.

“We are now at the Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam, and the water reservoir here has been receding due to a lack of rainfall over the past few days, which has affected water levels for power generation.

“Hence, we need to look into other options such as solar energy, biofuels, biomass, wind, and others. We need to have a good energy mix.

“Whenever there are disruptions in global energy supply, having a diversified energy mix will ensure that our people and industries can continue to access affordable

energy.

“That is what we are aiming for in the future, while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability,” he said when speaking to the media during his visit to the Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam yesterday.

The visit is part of the PETRA Squad Sarawak Zone 2026 tour series, held from April 12 to 13, reflecting the federal government’s ongoing commitment to strengthening the national energy transition agenda in a strategic, sustainable, and high-impact manner.

Meanwhile, Sarawak continues to play a significant role as the nation’s renewable energy hub, leveraging its natural resource advantages, particularly in hydropower, as well as its capacity to adopt clean energy technologies on a large scale.

“The hydroelectric dam has been in operation for more than 40 years, and we have been informed by Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) that its lifespan will be extended by another 30 years.

“This demonstrates that the development here is sustainable, not only in delivering green energy but also in contributing to Sarawak’s growth,” he said.

He also commended SEB for its initiative to develop floating solar systems in the reservoir, which generate about 50MW in collaboration with a company from China.

“This indicates that Sarawak is moving towards renewable energy by utilising both water and solar, forming a strong energy mix.

“Sarawak cannot rely solely on hydropower, which currently contributes about 70 per cent, but must also expand into solar and gas,” he added.

Sarawak is one of the key drivers in supporting the national target of achieving 70 per cent of electricity generation capacity from renewable energy sources by 2050.

At the same time, the visit highlights the close cooperation between the federal government and the Sarawak state government in advancing the national energy sector, particularly in expanding clean energy use and strengthening long-term electricity supply security.

The working visit also included a review of renewable energy (RE) projects, including the Batang Ai hydroelectric project and the hybrid floating solar project at the Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam in Lubok Antu.