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TRANSPARENCY

TNB 'believes in competitive bidding for power plant projects'

KUALA LUMPUR: Tenaga Nasional Bhd said it believes that competitive bidding for power plant projects will bring the best value to the industry.

TNB president and chief executive officer Datuk Seri Azman Mohd said the company shared the views of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin on the need for transparency in the tender process.

Azman was commenting on Yeo's announcement that the Federal Government had decided to cancel four independent power producer (IPP) contracts given by the previous administration.

Those contracts, she said, were directly awarded and the ministry would only go through open tenders.

Speaking after a meeting with the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) at Ilham Tower yesterday, Azman said TNB was pleased to share its views on the way forward and the reforms needed for the utility sector.

"CEP has been open to listening to our views, and they are very knowledgeable on the power sector and what is best for Malaysia.

"We would continue to work with the government to provide the best value for Malaysia.

"It is good for Malaysia that we do not work on emotions, but make rational and knowledge-based decisions."



Datuk Seri Azman Mohd

On whether the industry reform could bring down the electricity tariff, he said there was room for improvement but the driving cost factor was the fuel price, which was beyond TNB's control.

He said coal and gas prices fluctuated according to global pricing and this needed to be managed and handled well, noting that this was a common challenge not only to Malaysia but globally.

"The industry should re-look power plants and also the policy on the margins that we should be having.

"The electricity industry is a trait of three things, which are security, affordability and sustainability.

"Between the three, we have to find the most optimal balance to do that." **Bernama**