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PM LAUDS TNB'S ACHIEVEMENTS

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting the Battersea Power Station in London on Thursday. With him are Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir (third from left) and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani (fourth from left). BERNAMA PIC

RENEWABLE ENERGY

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Anwar attends launch of company's two solar farms in UK

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim commended Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) for its achievements and initiatives in renewable energy during the launch of TNB's Eastfield and Bunkers Hill solar farms in the United Kingdom.

Celebrating the milestone at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London, Anwar said: "This is not just pure investment, but an opportunity for us to learn and share experience in alternative renewable energy; solar and wind, that would be critical for TNB to embark on this exercise in Malaysia."

TNB's Bunkers Hill in Rotherwick (66.7MWp) and Eastfield in Harbury (35MWp) are two cutting-edge solar farms which are expected to deliver a combined capacity of 102MW to the whole country.

This venture showcases Malaysia's expertise in driving sustainable energy solutions worldwide.

They are expected to achieve their commercial operation date by early this year.

TNB owns, develops and operates renewable energy assets across the UK and Ireland, including solar, onshore and offshore wind, and battery projects.

Anwar said: "TNB is one of the major players in the country. It has done remarkably well. It has

been entrusted with major and phenomenal projects in terms of extending the grid facility as an Asean energy grid, as I have repeatedly mentioned here, the source from Indo China to Thailand to Malaysia.

"This means that we have to start with major investments to strengthen this grid across the peninsular into Johor, and undersea cable from Sarawak to the peninsular to Singapore.

"This makes Malaysia a critical area for the region in terms of the Asean energy grid. So, the experience they have here would be extremely useful."

The Asean Power Grid (APG) is a regional electricity grid that aims to connect the power systems of Asean member states. The APG is a key part of the Asean Vision 2020 and the Asean Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation.

"We are part of the region which is dynamic in terms of its growth. The focus is on effectiveness of investments in Malaysia and, therefore, TNB and other related players have been entrusted with this responsibility to conduct research to explore new avenues particularly in renewable energy."

Anwar reiterated that the role of TNB is critical in ensuring that Malaysia honors its commitment (as chair of Asean) to renewable energy.

"As such, I must take this opportunity to thank TNB because they have the roadmap (to achieve this)."

Anwar added that new technology energy demands new personnel and training, and he applauded TNB's continued efforts in training students and placing importance on research.

The prime minister attended the launch on the third day of his working visit to the UK.

Earlier he visited the Battersea Power Station and had a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, before a roundtable meeting with captains of industry in the UK.

At Battersea, which is Malaysia's largest investment involving public funds in Europe, he was received upon arrival by Tan Sri Shahril Ridza Ridzuan, chairman of Battersea Project Holding Company Ltd, and Permodalan Nasional Bhd (PNB) president and group chief executive Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad.

Bernama reported that Anwar was briefed on the 16.97ha regeneration project which centres around the iconic Grade II* listed Battersea Power Station.

The transformation of the large-scale mixed-use development has been led by a consortium of Malaysian companies comprising PNB, Sime Darby Property, SP Setia and the Employees Provident Fund.

Anwar was accompanied by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani and Foreign Ministry's deputy secretary-general Datuk Bala Chandran Tharman.

His entourage will leave for Brussels tomorrow.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim leading a Malaysian delegation in a meeting with top executives of British companies in London on Thursday.