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LONDON: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim expressed optimism that Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) foray into the renewable energy (RE) sector in the United Kingdom will yield significant long-term benefits for Malaysia, particularly in terms of technology transfer.

The Prime Minister emphasised that Malaysia is actively seeking new investments in the RE sector driven by robust economic growth and the fast growing Southeast Asian region.

"With the changing of times, you realise that there is now the shift from the conventional utilisation of energy to the new energy, RE. And TNB as a major player has done remarkably well," he said at the launching of TNB's 102 Megawatt (MW) Eastfield and Bunkers Hill solar farms in the United Kingdom.

In the Asean context, Anwar, who is also the Finance Minister, said the government will prioritise enhancing regional energy cooperation through the Asean Power Grid, a critical initiative for advancing the region's energy transition.

"Key steps include integrating Thai and Lao energy grids into the broader Asean network and exporting Sarawak's hydroelectric power to Singapore. These efforts mark a significant stride towards strengthening energy security and accelerating the clean energy transition in the Global South," he said.

According to him, TNB, with other players, have been entrusted with the responsibility to conduct research to explore new avenues, particularly in the area of RE and he praised the national energy company for continuing investment in training and expertise.

"TNB's investment scale is national here, and of course it would require a lot of effort. I must thank TNB for its role in the energy transition roadmap," he added. - Anwar also visited the Battersea Power Station, which is Malaysia's largest investment involving public funds in Europe.

Anwar, who is here on a five-day working visit to the United Kingdom, was received



Anwar (4th from right) visiting the Battersea Power Station, which is Malaysia's largest investment involving public funds in Europe.

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.

The premier was briefed on the 16.97-hectare (ha) 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, S P Setia, and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF).

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Minister of Higher Education Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Minister of Plantation and Commodities Datuk Seri

Johari Abdul Ghani, and Foreign Ministry's Deputy Secretary-General Datuk Bala Chandran Tharman.

Battersea Power Station is one of Europe's largest regeneration projects, delivering over 4,000 new homes, 3.5 million square feet of mixed commercial space, 7.69ha of public realm, and 20,000 jobs, with approximately half of the neighbourhood completed to date.

Today, it is home to more than 150 shops, cafés, restaurants and leisure experiences, over 3,000 residents, more than 6,600 workers, and is connected to the rest of Central London via a new Zone 1 Underground station.

Named by National Geographic as one of the 20 "Best Cultural Spots" in the world in 2024, Battersea Power Station has welcomed over 24 million visitors since opening to the public in October 2022. - Bernama