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COMMITMENT TO MALAYSIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION ROADMAP

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At the launch of the Energy Transition Conference 2023, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) chairman Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid said the national utility company had put its plans into motion "to support the country's net zero aspirations".

TNB is "leading discussions with Asean utilities and governments for resource-sharing and flexibility solutions at scale", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said during the launch of the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR). "The move will accelerate the energy transition pace in a responsible manner while balancing the elements of the energy trilemma."

Even before the global movement in energy transition emerged in the last few years, TNB had taken early steps to prepare Malaysia for a new energy landscape amid rising demand and price volatility, and which embraces digitalisa-

tion and the adoption of renewable energy (RE).

TNB invested about RM60 billion between 2015 and 2023 for its regulated transmission and distribution assets, which is among the most reliable in the world, according to the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI). The company has also spent more than RM2 billion installing over three million smart meters – a crucial component in introducing flexible smart tariffs for consumers – with the target of completing the installation for all nine million customers in the country by 2026.

In the RE generation space, TNB has participated in Large-Scale Solar (LSS) projects, with 50MW capacity each installed in Sepang, Selangor, and Bukit Selambau in Kedah. The group also operates GSPARX Sdn Bhd, which is among the early players in the solar rooftop engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning (EPCC) segment.

In 2022, TNB committed to retire its 1,400MW Kapar coal plant by 2028, a year ahead of schedule. It also announced plans to repower a 1,400MW power plant in Paka, with the aim of making it hydrogen-ready by 2029.

Since then, TNB has engaged parties like Toshiba and Petroleum Nasional Bhd (Petronas) to explore carbon capture technologies to be applied to its conventional power plants in the country as part of its decarbonisation efforts.

At the launch of the NETR, it was highlighted that TNB was among the industry champions spearheading the national agenda. During the event, the prime minister was accompanied by Minister of Economy Rafizi Ramli and Minister of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

The national utility company is slated to develop a solar park with a total capacity of 500MW, among the biggest in the region, and to integrate its existing reservoirs with floating solar power generation with a capacity of 2,500MW to address intermittency at a lower cost than battery storage. In the mobility seg-

ment, it has set its sights on installing 3,300 EV charging points nationwide by 2025, or 33% of the national target.

To facilitate market liberalisation – key to accelerating the growth of the RE industry – TNB will work closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change and regulator Energy Commission (EC) to develop a third party access (TPA) framework for the sourcing of RE.

These parties will also work with related agencies to develop plans for accelerated investments in power transmission and distribution assets, which require an estimated RM180 billion in investments to be RE-ready. TNB alone has committed to invest RM90 billion in this segment over the next six years.

Additionally, the company will tap into its more than 70 years of experience in the industry and play a role in enhancing energy literacy and energy-efficiency awareness among consumers, including encouraging small and medium enterprises to incorporate energy-efficient practices in their business.