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KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Energy Roadmap and Masterplan 2040 (SE RAMP 2040) was formulated in anticipation of the transfer of regulatory powers over the electricity and new energy supply to the state government in January next year.

It is a clear and forward-looking action plan as a guiding direction and strategy towards the desired objectives for the State, said Energy Commission of Sabah (ECoS) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid.

Speaking at the launching of SE RAMP 2040 here on Tuesday, he said such a plan served as a motivational boost, not only because it is a mandated task but also because it provides an opportunity for ECoS along with all the departments and agencies involved, to collectively contribute towards achieving the planned development objectives for the State.

The SE RAMP 2040 was launched by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Haji Noor.

This plan has also been developed taking into consideration other specific plans, especially the Sabah Maju Jaya Roadmap, the National Energy Policy 2040, and others related to it.

It is also relevant to the latest national-level plans such as the National Energy Transition Plan 2050 (NETR), which was recently launched this year," he said.

According to Abdul Nasser, SE RAMP 2040 was established based on extensive research and detailed information obtained through engagement sessions with various stakeholders, including State and Federal Government departments and agencies, as well as energy industry players, to ensure comprehensive and precise planning.

It has three main pillars or primary objectives, namely, ensuring reliable and secure energy supply (Energy Security), achieving comprehensive and equitable accessibility and affordability (Equal Accessibility and Affordability), and preserving environmental sustainability.

From the three objectives, 16 strategic plans have been identified which are seven strategies towards ensuring energy security for sustainable energy industry, five strategies to optimize energy sources for competitiveness to stimulate sustainable economic development, including a focus on rural electrification, and



Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Haji Noor witnessing exchange of MoU documents between ECoS and Petronas at Menara Kinabalu on Tuesday.

four strategies to enhance the energy sector's contribution to environmental sustainability.

"I am pleased to report that most of these strategies have already begun implementation towards achieving their respective objectives and targets," he said, adding that there are six crucial enablers supporting the strategies which are formulation and implementation of policies and regulations, good governance, human capital development, technological research, financial support and investment and reform of the energy supply industry's structure and operations.

Abdul Nasser disclosed that the initiatives outlined in SE RAMP 2040 are categorized into three major timelines, short-term planning, up to 2025, which includes ongoing projects or critical short-term projects, such as improving Sabah's grid generation reserve margin.

Medium-term planning, from 2026 to 2030, including the SESB Transformation Plan towards sustainability by 2030, as an example and long-term planning, post-2030, such as the target of a renewable energy mix of over 50 per cent by 2035.

There are seven specific goals which are SAIDI below 100 minutes by 2030 (compared to around 300 minutes currently), 100 per cent rural electrification coverage by 2030 (compared to the current 98 per cent), optimal and sustainable electricity tariffs by 2030 without government subsidies, a balanced generation mix (without dependence on a single energy source, compared to the current nearly 90 per cent reliance on natural gas), over 50 per cent renewable energy generation mix (in terms of MW capacity) or over 30 per cent (in terms of MWh unit energy) by 2035, achieving a low-carbon state by 2040 (meaning more than 50 per cent of energy generation using renewable energy in terms of MWh unit

energy) and achieving a carbon-neutral state by 2050, aligning with the national target.

"SE RAMP 2040 is a live and dynamic document, meaning it will undergo a review process every three years to ensure its ongoing relevance, taking into account changes in the situation and technology in the future."

Furthermore, from a governance perspective, the key initiatives within SE RAMP 2040 will be monitored in terms of their implementation progress and the need for interventions by a main committee known as the Sabah Energy Council, which will be chaired by the Chief Minister himself," said Abdul Nasser.

He added that the successful development of SE RAMP 2040 is a result of the commitment of all parties involved.

"The next step is for all of us to rally together so that the planned initiatives can be effectively implemented through cooperation among all stakeholders, including the State Government, Federal Government, and energy supply industry players in Sabah, all for the progress of Sabah," he pointed out.

Speaking to reporters later, Abdul Nasser who was asked how much power is expected to be generated through the strategies in the SE RAMP 2040, said the indicative forecast is that it would be three to four times more than the current generation of about 1,200MW.

Renewable energy would contribute to 50 per cent of the power generation and this would involve sources such as hydro, solar, geothermal and wind power, he said. The floating solar is also a possibility that can be considered for power generation but the system has its pros and cons, Abdul Nasser said.

Replying to a question about the floating solar, he said that the pro is that there is no need to use land to install the system.

"But the cost to build floating

solar would be more than ground mounted as you need to have all the necessary fixtures to make sure it can float. We are open to floating solar because land is so precious and we are surrounded by sea, rivers and lakes that can be used," he said.

When asked for the update on the geothermal project in Tawau, Abdul Nasser said ECoS is trying to get the mandate to revive the project as it has potential to generate power.

"Through the initial study conducted it was found that there is potential."

Now we have to continue with the study," he said adding "there was some issue with the previous proponent so they exited, we want to restart again."

"At the launching ceremony, two strategic collaborations between ECoS and University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Petronas, in the form of Memoranda of Understanding were signed. The first MoU is a strategic collaboration involving exploration and research into new energy technologies with Petronas (Project Delivery and Technology Division), leveraging the capabilities of facilities at the Petronas Research Centre in relevant areas.

The second MoU involved human capital development in the energy sector competency, as well as research and development in energy and technical safety guideline development, in collaboration with UMS Investment Holdings Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of Universiti Malaysia Sabah). UMS, he said, was now the first training center in Sabah for the Gas Competency Program, accredited by the Energy Commission of Sabah in June last year.

"This achievement will benefit various parties in developing human capital in the gas supply industry in Sabah, which previously relied solely on training centers in Peninsular Malaysia," he said.