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KUCHING: Budget 2025's continued focus on advancing the 'green agenda' within Malaysia has drawn praise from industry commentators.

To recap under Budget 2025, the National Energy Transition Facilitation Roadmap (NETR) saw its allocated fund raised from RM100 million in 2024 to RM300 million. The application for rooftop solar quotation allocation under the Net-Energy Metering (NEM) was also extended until June 30, 2025.

Meanwhile, the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS) which seeks to increase adoption of green technology in Malaysian industry was also announced that it would continue until 2026 with RM1 billion funding.

In a statement, Solarvest Holdings Bhd (Solarvest) welcomed Budget 2025 as it aligns with their recommendation for Malaysia to accelerate its clean energy transition and demonstrates a commitment

by the government to foster a thriving renewable energy sector.

"The 2025 Budget is a significant step forward in solidifying Malaysia's position as a leader in renewable energy. By allocating over RM300 million under the NETR, compared to RM100 million this year, the country is set to enhance its energy landscape.

The consistently strong demand for solar energy and NEM underscores the importance of extending NEM to June 2025.

"This move will enable clean energy providers like us to further contribute to the nation's energy transition," said Davis Chong, executive director and group chief executive officer of Solarvest.

Chong added that the e-rebates of up to RM70 million will also significantly aid Malaysia in achieving its 'green agenda' as it would encourage consumers and industries to buy energy-efficient electrical equipment and support individuals and businesses to transition to cleaner energy solutions.

"This will drive greater adoption of renewables,

delivering lasting benefits for our economy and communities,"

Chong shared.

Similarly, Christina Tee, president of Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MICCI) guided that they were welcoming of Budget 2025 as it aligns with their key focus of sustainability.

Other than the increased NETR funding, Tee guided that they were optimistic about the RM1 billion allocations to the GTFS as well as tax break for Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) activities.

"We welcome the push to enhance access to and production of renewable energy, and to encourage wider industry participation to achieve a net-zero carbon economy," she shared.

She added that MICCI are also encouraged by the increasing of Technical and Vocational

Education and Training (TVET) allocation to RM7.5 billion which is expected to not only provide increased opportunities for vulnerable youth and marginalised communities but also potentially resolve critical workforce shortages in Malaysia's labour force.

"Especially with Malaysia aiming to transform the industrial landscape with high-growth and high-tech industries under NIMP, this move will contribute towards ensuring Malaysia remains competitive on the global stage," she concluded.

On that note, Suresh Sidhu, chief executive officer and founder of EdgePoint, an Asean based independent telecommunications infrastructure company, shared that they were optimistic at the RM635 million allocation to

improve infrastructure, replace outdated equipment, and expand internet access across all public universities.

Suresh guided that they looked forward to playing their role in equipping universities with modern, future ready technology and providing graduates with seamless high quality connectivity that would maximize their potential through e-learning resources and development materials online

Besides this, the ongoing Point of Presence (POP) projects will also continue with RM800 million allocated as well as a fixed broadband connectivity programme for rural schools

with an allocation of RM100 million.

This coupled with the allocations to create more opportunities in emerging fields

such as AI, robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), data science, FinTech and more, will speed up our journey to becoming a robust digital economy," Suresh shared.

He added that EdgePoint would also be looking to support the implementation of CCUS activities through the exploration of the latest approaches to integrating sustainability into our telecommunications towers.

While there was some concern regarding the announced introduction of Carbon Tax on the iron, steel and energy industry in 2026, most analysts held no strong opinions at the moment and instead were hopeful that there would be more dialogue between government and industries before its details were ironed out.

Some also believed that the upcoming carbon tax would be beneficial for national development as it would not only widen Malaysia's tax revenue base but also further Malaysia's aim for a transition into a low-carbon economy.

Note that since the Paris Agreement in 2015, Malaysia has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity by 45 per cent from its 2005 levels by 2030.



Davis Chong



Suresh Sidhu



Christina Tee