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Sabah needs additional extra energy sources

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KUALA LUMPUR: Sabah needs to develop additional energy sources to meet industry needs which require a dependable and high supply of electricity, said Deputy Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Liew Chin Tong (pic).

He said currently, 89 per cent of Sabah's power generation is based on natural gas, noting that the State's energy reserve margin is currently only at 11 per cent, way below the ideal reserve margin of 30 per cent.

Liew said the power shortage issue in Sabah is actually an opportunity to strengthen and expand energy sector investments in the State.

"Since coal-based power plants are currently not an option to meet Sabah's power needs, new power



sources or technology, including green power, must be explored and considered to be the top choices as a long-term solution.

"Renewable energy (RE) sources that are being explored include hydroelectric, wind, solar and Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion," he said when winding up the Dewan Negara special meeting to debate on the motion of the 12th Malaysia Plan Mid-Term Review, Monday.

Liew said based on current plans outlined in the Sabah Energy Roadmap and Master Plan 2040 launched on Sept 19, RE generation in Sabah's power grid is expected to increase to 1,000 megawatts (MW), or 50 per cent of total generation capacity, by 2030.

"This would be a good thing to accomplish, given that the dependency on fossil energy sources is currently at 90 per cent," he said. – Bernama