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Sarawak eyes wider ASEAN green energy market



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KUALA LUMPUR: Sarawak is looking to expand its electricity supply network to Brunei and other ASEAN markets as it strengthens its position as a regional green energy supplier. Energy and Environmental Sustainability Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Hazland Abang Hipni said the state has been exporting electricity to West Kalimantan since 2016 and has also begun supplying power to Sabah. He said plans to connect Sarawak's electricity grid to Peninsular Malaysia under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) could further expand access to the country's major energy demand centres.

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DR Hazland

want to be the battery of ASEAN. We want to be a reliable green energy supplier for the region.” Dr Hazland said this when delivering his speech at the closing ceremony of EnerGex 2026 here recently, according to a report by the Sarawak Public Communications Unit (UKAS). He said Sarawak is targeting 15 gigawatts (GW) of power generation capacity by 2035 to support its growing energy needs and regional supply ambitions. Currently, more than 70 per cent of the state's electricity comes from renewable sources, primarily hydropower. As part of its energy transition, Sarawak is also gradually reducing its reliance on coal-fired power

plants while developing gas and hydrogen-based power generation facilities in Bintulu and Miri. Meanwhile, Sarawak Energy has commissioned Malaysia's first utility-scale battery energy storage system at the Sejingkat Power Plant. The facility, with a capacity of 60 megawatts (MW) and 82 megawatt-hours (MWh), is designed to support grid stability as renewable energy generation expands. Dr Hazland said Sarawak's hydrogen development, which began in 2019, is also progressing from pilot projects towards large-scale commercial ventures with international partners. He called for stronger

cooperation among investors, financial institutions, industry players and educational institutions to accelerate green energy development and prepare a skilled workforce. He added that collaboration involving Sarawak Energy, Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Petroliaam Nasional Bhd (PETRONAS) and other industry partners would be crucial to strengthening national and regional energy connectivity.