

Headline	POWER REGULATOR		
MediaTitle	Malaysian Business		
Date	25 Nov 2013	Color	Full Color
Section	Editorial	Circulation	25,000
Page No	1	Readership	50,000
Language	English	ArticleSize	251 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,734
Frequency	Fortnight	PR Value	RM 8,202



EDITOR'S NOTE

POWER REGULATOR

TALKING about energy security and sustainability, one can hardly miss out the role of Suruhanjaya Tenaga Malaysia or Energy Commission (EC) Malaysia, the regulator of electricity supply and piped gas supply industries in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

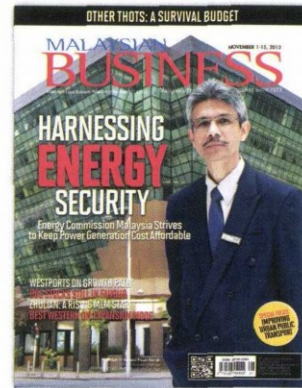
With fears of a looming hike in electricity tariff, the EC shoulders a heavy responsibility in striking a delicate balance between ensuring the sustainability of both the power and piped gas supply industries at one end and protecting the interests of consumers (industrial, commercial and household) at the other.

As we learn from Datuk Ir Ahmad Fauzi Hasan, the EC's Chief Executive Officer, discovering the right formula to ensure a good fit between pricing and the cost to supply energy is the biggest challenge poser for the regulatory body.

A professional engineer with over 35 years of regulatory experience, Ahmad Fauzi's current job focuses on economic, technical and safety regulations for the piped gas and electricity supply industries.

In his Other Thots column, A Kadir Jasin comments on the 2014 Budget by emphasising that the Government must set the example of financial prudence, fiscal responsibility and transparency, failing which its competency and trustworthiness will continue to be questioned.

What worries the people, according to Kadir, is the overall state of the economy and the perception that the government is extravagant and wasteful. Citing a former Finance Minister, he points out



that the perception is such that the more taxes the Government collects, the more extravagant and wasteful it would become.

Also on the Budget trail, our guest writer Dr Veerinderjeet Singh, who is Chairman of Taxand Malaysia Sdn Bhd and advocator of effective governance, highlights what the much-awaited goods and services tax (GST) entails, as well as changes to the personal and corporate tax rates, real property gains tax (RPGT), and the need for Malaysia to review the whole tax system holistically.

In our Corporate section, we shine the spotlight on the oil & gas sector and a few listed entities, namely Zhulian, Westports, Boustead Plantations and Pharmaniaga.

Elsewhere, we have a six-pager Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) special report on Improving the Urban Public Transport National Key Results Area (NKRA) as well as an exclusive interview with Cyberview Sdn Bhd's newly-appointed Managing Director Faris Yahaya on his innovative business model that will pave the way towards the creation of a sustainable income for the cybercity manager.

Happy reading! **mb**

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