

Headline	Ongkili wants more efforts to harness renewable energy		
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Bartholomew Chong

TAWAU: Alternative renewable energy should be seriously considered as the current low electricity rate is due to the subsidy provided in the usage of diesel fuel to power generators.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said he wanted to see more effort to put renewable energy to full use with the availability of technology.

“We are planning for the next 10 years for Sabah in terms of power from renewable energy and conventional power such as from the hydro power at Padas, SPR Energy and Kimanis power plants as demanded by our Prime Minister, but I hope that energy from renewable source could be more apparent in the next two

years,” he said after visiting the Kubota Power station at Mile 4, Apas Road, here, Saturday.

Ongkili also touched on the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) gas-powered plant to replace the cancelled coal plant, which is currently underway to further boost the power capacity for the East Coast of the State.

Touching on the Kubota plant, he said the production of 64MW power from the plant, which began on July 15, 2013, is only a short-term effort by the government in line with the increased usage of power after the cancellation of the proposed coal-powered plant in 2011.

“This (Kubota) plant has begun supplying power to the Sabah grid system since June 16, 2013 and it had further stabilised

the grid system and reduced the need for Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) from implementing other actions,” he added.

Dr Ongkili cited that Demand Site Management (DSM) load shedding during peak demand could be avoided as much as possible due to the increase.

At the moment, Sabah is believed to be the leading state in the country in terms of renewable energy technology in the usage of hydro, solar hybrid and biomass technologies while geothermal plant in the district is expected to be completed by 2016.

With the new energy source, Sabah and Labuan’s production of power stood at 1,211MW, while the highest consumption recorded for both territories was at 866MW in March 2013.

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