



Maximus preparing to try out the bikes with a test ride together with Seda Chairman Datuk Yee Moh Chai around the UMS campus yesterday.

UMS first to receive 200 electric bicycles

Neil Chan DE 12.4.2017 3

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) was the first among six universities in the country to receive 200 new Sikal Elektrik Rakyat 1Malaysia (Serim) electric bicycles here Tuesday.

The other universities are Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

According to Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili the programme aims to promote green technologies through green practices to young people, especially among university students.

"The Ministry has appointed Malaysia Green Technology Corporation (MGTC) as the implementing agency for this programme based on the experience of the agency in the electric vehicle initiative in Malaysia.

"The Electric Pedal Assisted Bicycle (EPAB), which is used for the programme complies with the MS 2514 standard PAB developed by Sirim Berhad specifically for electric bikes.

"Under this standard, electric bikes must move with the help of pedal and the maximum speed is 25 km per hour. The use of electric bikes do not require a driving licence and road tax."

He said the bikes used for the programme are from a local company i.e. Voltron Malaysia Sdn Bhd and are able to climb 30 degree hills easily which is suitable for government universities in Malaysia which are usually on hilly terrain.

"These bikes do not emit carbon dioxide and can take advantage of cycling paths that are now available at the university. The use of EPAB bikes is expected to reduce carbon emissions at each university campus in the country.

"To ensure effective governance, the MGTC will conduct an audit of this project and bicycles delivered within two years of the programme. In addition, MGTC with the cooperation of Voltron will also provide technical assistance, training in the use, operation and maintenance of the university. The university also must promote this programme to the public, especially students via website or social media university."

He said this to reporters at the handing over of the 200 units of the electrical bikes to the university under the Serim Programme by the Ministry.

Ongkili said the programme can also be seen a step towards Malaysia's commitment in line with the Paris Agreement 2015, where the country had renewed its target commitment to reduce the release

of greenhouse gases (GHG) from 40 per cent to 45 per cent based on the national gross domestic product by 2030 compared to the levels in 2005.

He added that 35 per cent was unconditional while the remaining 10 per cent was conditional and dependant on the receipt of financial allocations technological transfers and capacity building from developed countries.

On the total cost for the programme Ongkili said the Serim programme received a RM4mil allocation from Finance Ministry for the programme where six universities were chosen including UMS at a cost of RM614,800.

For Sabah and Sarawak there will be additional cost incurred for transportation and logistics.

"The most important thing is the awareness among the people and students of higher learning institutions. So our hope is the universities will use it as a platform to create further awareness among the campus community and they can move on to other aspects of reducing energy i.e. energy efficiency, water efficiency and so on to promote a green lifestyle."

He added that there was also scope from a technical and engineering cooperation (of the university) for further improvement (of the Serim) with the manufacturer.

Ongkili said the university can also carry out the programme according to a business model under the entrepreneurship programme. The bikes can be rented or sold to students according to their business plan.

"Another model is the one used in Jeju Island in South Korea, where the electric bicycles there are operated by a company under the university and students there purchase a card to utilise the electric bicycles where they can pick up in one area and park it in another part of the city. It is all monitored so this is where this model needs to be coupled with IT applications (to make it work)."

To a question on whether the bikes which cost about RM3,000 each would be released to the market soon, Ongkili said the programme at the moment was still in the pilot stage to gauge the response and success before rolling it out to the public.

On charging the bike, he added that it was a simple affair which can be done at any home electrical outlet for a few hours and that the next model coming out next year is also expected to have 'charge as you cycle' capabilities.

Earlier Ongkili also presented an allocation grant of RM55,000 to UMS for its energy audit programme for commercial buildings.