

Better power supply for Sabah in pipeline



Dr. Zarina (fourth right), Dr. Marcus (fifth right), and Isnaraissah (sixth right) in a group photo with UMS officials and participants of the 6th International Biotechnology Symposium.

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By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah will soon have better electricity supply through a development project with the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC).

Deputy Minister Isnaraissah Munirah Majiliss said among others, it was aimed at providing sufficient supply and better distribution in Sabah.

The ongoing project, she said, was agreed upon in a committee chaired by MESTECC minister Yeo Bee Yin and

Chief Minister Datuk Mohd. Shafie Apdal.

"This was the first time in the new government that a meeting on electricity development was jointly chaired by the minister and chief minister.

"It has been conducted twice, so far, and they have taken unanimous decision to plan what is best for Sabah, and what needs to be done next.

"This was a good development whereby Sabah was involved in making decision for the administration of the State's electrical supply and while I could not say in detail, we are indeed having several projects to improve electricity in Sabah," she said.

While the west coast of Sabah has enough electricity supply, she asserted that the ministry wants to improve its distribution.

She was speaking to reporters after officiating at the 6th International Biotechnology Symposium here on Wednesday.

Also present were Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Assistant Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Marcus Jopony, UMS Biotechnology Research Institute director Dr. Zarina Amin, and symposium chairperson Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kenneth Rodriguez.

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On another note, the Kota Belud MP said there should be no problem to set up the Papar Dam if proper procedure were adhered to.

She however admitted that she was unclear of the project's development and whether the environmental impact assessment (EIA) has been done, adding that the matter was under the jurisdiction of the Sabah government.

Earlier, Isnaraissah who represented Yeo stated that the government was committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on 5Ps – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

According to the latest initial Assessment of the SDG Indicators for Malaysia in 2018, she said Malaysia's SDG indicators cover 17 goals, 169 targets, and

244 indicators to measure the achievement of universal development.

Under the first and second goals – to end poverty and hunger, and achieve food security – she said Malaysia had decreased in poverty from 49.3 per cent in 1970 to 0.6 per cent in 2014 and is ranked 40th in the world and sixth in Asia and Pacific Region in terms of food security.

She said Malaysia had also eradicated endemic small pox and polio, reversed the spread of HIV/AIDS and ranked first in the best healthcare in the world in its goal to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages.

She added that Malaysia has more than 90 per cent enrolment rates for primary and secondary school levels for both boys and girls with higher education gender ratio slightly in favor of girls under

Goals 4 and 5 – to ensure quality education and gender equality.

For Goal 6 that was to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, there was over 95 per cent coverage for water and sanitation, and electricity supply in Malaysia, she said, at the national level.

"Under Goal 7, 12 and 16 – ensure access to sustainable energy, consumption and development – the 2018 Global Peace Index released on June ranked Malaysia as the 25th most peaceful country in the world.

"Under Goal 13, 14, 15, and 17 – to combat climate change, conserve and protect oceans and lands – Malaysia has maintained more than 50 per cent forest cover, and 1.06 per cent as marine protected areas as of 2015," she said.