

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

'PETRONAS CONSIDERING INVESTING IN RENEWABLES'

New ventures will also support govt's goal to lower carbon emissions, says CEO

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PETROLIAM Nasional Bhd (Petronas) is considering investing in renewable energy such as solar, wind and biomass on a commercial scale, said president and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin.

He said this was in light of the demand for more sustainable energy.

Petronas' new ventures will also support the Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Ministry's initiatives to reduce carbon emission intensity by 45 per cent per capita by 2030 and achieve low-carbon economy status by 2050.

Wan Zulkiflee said Petronas had taken steps to explore new growth areas beyond oil and gas (O&G) while maintaining its core business with the dominance of

O&G in the primary energy mix. "Policymakers and energy players are expected to navigate the complexity of transitioning to a lower-carbon energy system that fosters inclusive economic growth and provides affordable and secure energy supply," he said at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Malaysia Energy Roundtable, here, yesterday.

Petronas is the latest O&G major to look into renewables. Top oil companies, including Royal Dutch Shell, BP and Total, are investing more in cleaner energy such as solar and wind power and electric vehicle technology.

In April, Petronas completed the acquisition of Amplus Energy Solutions Pte Ltd, better known as M+, a leading Singapore-based company with a portfolio of distributed, renewable energy assets in Asia.

Global renewable capacity, excluding hydro, had soared from under 100,000 megawatts in

2000 to more than one million megawatts in 2017, according to International Renewable Energy Agency data.

Wan Zulkiflee said the energy transition would be driven by the energy landscape set against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties, growing environmental consciousness, rapid pace of technological innovation and the emergence of new consumer demands and expectations.

"For Malaysia, our energy system ranked positively compared to our regional neighbours. Malaysia's energy security and affordability scores are among the top 20 in the WEF's Energy Transition Index (ETI). This was attributed to our high electrification rate, low usage of solid fuels, diverse fuel mix and high quality of electricity supply."

Petronas had embarked on numerous energy investments anchored to its three-pronged strategy to develop an energy mix that effectively balanced the energy

trilemma of security, affordability and sustainability of energy supply, he said.

"We have allocated RM30 billion for upstream activities this year. Half of it is for domestic investments to ensure there will be no disruptions to energy supply," said Wan Zulkiflee.

The roundtable was part of the WEF's energy programme in Asean and was an avenue for stakeholders in Malaysia to discuss the vision and steps in achieving energy transition.

WEF future of energy and materials head Roberto Bocca presented key insights from the ETI 2019 that benchmarked 115 countries' energy systems performance and their readiness for energy transition from the dimensions of security and access, environmental sustainability, and economic development and growth.

Malaysia ranked 31st on the index, one of the highest in South-east Asia.

Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin spoke about policy priorities needed to improve environmental sustainability for the energy sector and highlighted Malaysia's role in the global arena for climate change.

PAGE 15 PIC: Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (second from left) with Petroliaam Nasional Bhd president and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin (left), Energy Commission chairman Datuk Ahmad Fauzi Hasan and Tenaga Nasional Bhd chief strategy and regulatory officer Datuk Fazlur Rahman Zainuddin at the Malaysia Energy Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SALHANI IBRAHIM



Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change Minister Yeo Bee Yin (centre) with (from left) World Economic Forum head of future of energy and materials Roberto Bocca, Petroliaam Nasional Bhd president and group chief executive officer Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin, Energy Commission chairman Datuk Ahmad Fauzi Hasan and Tenaga Nasional Bhd chief strategy and regulatory officer Datuk Fazlur Rahman Zainuddin at the Malaysia Energy Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SALHANI IBRAHIM