

# Wawasan Suria to see more solar-powered buildings

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday announced his dream of harnessing solar power to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

In a speech launching the Suria 1000 programme, read by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi, he said: "The programme we are launching today is the first step towards realising a dream. It is my vision to see Malaysian homes and offices equipped with solar BIPV roofs to generate renewable electricity. I call this vision Wawasan Suria."

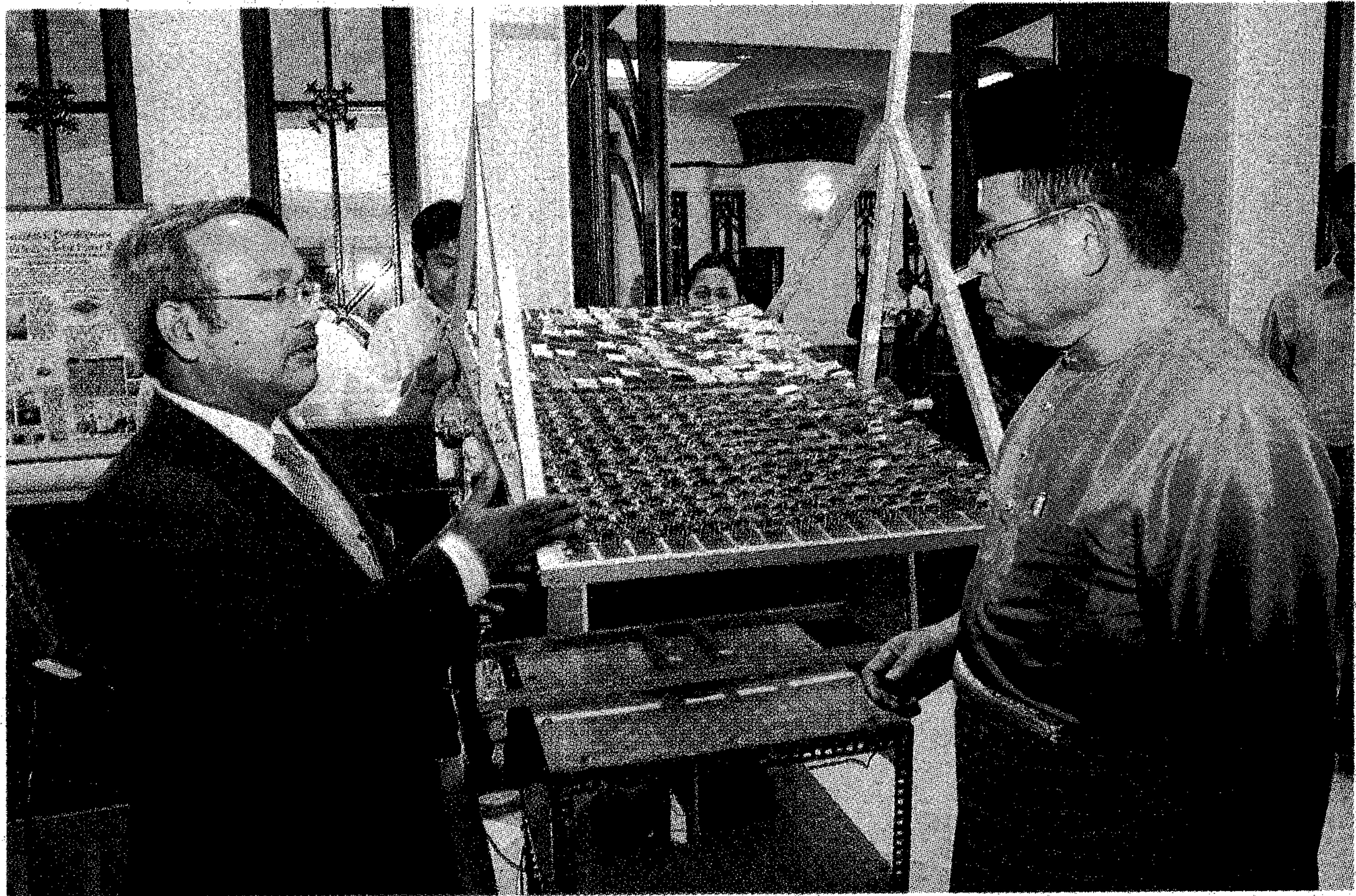
He said based on an assessment by Pusat Tenaga Malaysia, by installing the building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) systems on urban buildings, 6,500 megawatts of solar power could be generated.

"This is almost half of our maximum electricity demand today," he added.

At the launch, the names of 14 homeowners who had put in bids for subsidies to install BIPV systems under Suria 1000 were announced. They will pay only 47 per cent of the total cost of RM1.7 million.

The remainder will be sponsored by the government, the Global Environment Facility under the United Nations Development Programme, and the private sector.

Abdullah said there was still



Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi (right) listening to Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications secretary-general Datuk Dr Halim Man explaining a solar tracking system at the launch of the Suria 1000 programme yesterday.

RM11 million worth of rebates to be given out.

"For the property developers, I would also like to announce a special incentive to build energy-efficient houses. The government will select one or two developers to re-

ceive various incentives and a special rebate of more than RM3 million to build 70 units of BIPV homes, and create my dream of a sustainable community," he said, adding that developers should take up the challenge to build the first so-

lar-powered township.

At a news conference later, Effendi announced that the cabinet had formed a new committee for energy to look into the issue of depleting energy resources.

He added that the next cab-

inet session would be the inaugural meeting of the committee.

Effendi said the government paid RM25 billion for fuel subsidies in 2005. Out of this, RM9 billion was for generating electrical power.