

Pak Lah backs solar power use

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PM shares vision on renewable energy

PUTRAJAYA: Wawasan Suria, envisioned by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will see greater use of renewable energy, such as solar power.

The Prime Minister said renewable energy was a relatively new development in the country but the Government was now putting in place appropriate measures and an implementation plan for its use.

"It is my vision to see Malaysian homes and offices equipped with solar roofs to generate this renewable energy and I call this vision Wawasan Suria," he said in his speech at the launch of National Suria 1000 programme here yesterday.

The text of the speech was read out by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Effendi Norwawi.

The National Suria 1000 programme provides financial incentives through discounts to the public to install solar or Building Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems at their homes.

This programme is being implemented by the Energy Centre of Malaysia with support from United Nations Development Programme.

"Through the programme, we are starting to produce electricity by using the solar photo-

voltaic technology.

"I fervently wish that we can build up this programme and do a lot more because not only is the electricity from the sun is unlimited, it is also the most benign form of electricity generation known today," he said.

Abdullah said the Government had given a lot of support for the development of renewable energy by providing fiscal incentives such as pioneer status, investment tax allowance, accelerated capital allowance, waiver of import duties and local sales tax.

The prime minister also challenged developers to build the first solar-powered township in the country.

"The Government will select one or two developers to receive various incentives and a special rebate of more than RM3mil to build 70 units of BIPV homes and create my dream of a sustainable community," he said.

He also hoped that Malaysia could become a hub for solar technology development.

Later at a press conference, Effendi said the Cabinet Committee on Energy had been set up recently to look at future strategy of energy use in the country.

He added that the RM25bil for energy subsidy in 2005 was impossible to sustain.