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Explore new industries, says PM

Najib: Great potential for growth in Malaysian biomass sector

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PUTRAJAYA: New industries must be explored to lessen the country's dependency on traditional commodities, especially in current times when prices are sliding, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Prime Minister said developing new industries, like the biomass sector, had great potential for the country.

Malaysia, he said, had set its sight on becoming a premier biomass processing hub in South-East Asia, an initiative under the national biomass strategy 2020 (NBS2020).

"In order to be a contender, both Sabah and Sarawak, which account for more than 50% of biomass generated in the country, will have to

play a key role for this plan to be successful," he said when launching the Sabah and Sarawak Biomass Industry Development Plan.

Najib outlined why the two states were important in this effort, saying that Sabah had the largest oil palm planted area and milling activities and if 4.8 million dry tonnes of palm oil biomass was utilised for higher value applications, it could help create RM3.2bil in additional Gross National Income, RM13.5bil in new investment opportunities and create more than 25,000 jobs.

Sarawak has a multi-biomass feedstock proposition such as forestry, oil palm, dedicated crops and biomass industry development, which can generate an additional RM4.8bil in GNI, create 30,000 new



jobs and RM18bil in investment opportunities by utilising about six billion dry tonnes of biomass.

The key biomass clusters are Lahad Datu, Sandakan and Tawau in Sabah and Bintulu, Miri, Tanjung Manis and Kuching in Sarawak.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Seri Adenan Satem said the state would integrate biomass as a new industry under the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy.

"We are confident that a realistic and well-executed biomass devel-

opment industry can contribute towards Sarawak becoming a high income state in the next four years," said Adenan, whose speech was delivered by assistant minister in the Chief Minister's Office Datuk Len Talif Salleh.

Borneo's renewed energy: Najib shaking hands with Len Talif at the launch of the Sabah and Sarawak Biomass Industry Development Plan in Putrajaya.

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