

DAP wants AELB to report false solar plant radiation claims to MCMC
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 — The DAP has urged the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) to lodge a report against websites that “twisted” and “misrepresented” its director-general’s statement about the Bosch solar panel plant in Batu Kawan, Penang.

Party secretary-general Lim Guan Eng (picture), who is also Penang chief minister, alleged that the attempts to claim the plant produced radioactive waste may have damaged efforts to attract foreign investments, tarnished the credibility of scientific institutions and violated the principle of truthful reporting.

“This...has caused harm to AELB’s reputation as an independent professional body as well as a competent regulatory institution,” he said in a press statement.

“The AELB must therefore act fast to restore its reputation by lodging a report with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).”

He also alleged the misrepresentation of facts was due to efforts made by “certain pro-BN media and BN politicians” to divert attention away from BN’s problems, particularly in the Lynas issue.

“How can anyone claim that solar energy produces radioactive energy, when any primary student knows it produces electromagnetic and not radioactive energy?” Lim said.

Yesterday, the AELB said in a statement that claims that the Bosch solar panel plant in Penang will produce radioactive waste are “not so accurate”.

The nation’s nuclear regulator pointed out that such plants “do not generally produce or emit radioactive material and so are not subject to the Atomic Energy Licensing Act.

Allegations that Robert Bosch GmbH’s multi-million ringgit solar panel plant will produce radioactive waste emerged earlier this month soon after the government’s plan for a Parliamentary Select Committee on Lynas Corp’s rare earths plant was announced.

The formation of the panel, which will hear “scientific and fact-based views” from stakeholders on the controversial refinery, was approved by the Dewan Rakyat on March 20.

On March 21, pro-Umno blog The Mole quoted AELB director-general Raja Abdul Aziz Raja Adnan as saying that the Bosch plant “will produce radioactive material” and would therefore need a licence from the regulator.

Construction of the plant in Batu Kawan, which will have a capacity of 640MW per year, is scheduled to begin later this year.

Bosch has said the plant will be a key part of its globalisation efforts to further cut costs and

increase energy yields.

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