

**Failure to submit environmental action plan reflects poor leadership, says DAP**  
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**By A AZIM IDRIS**

**DAP's Ong Kian Ming wants the new Environment and Natural Resources Minister to explain the embarrassing lack of leadership on the part of Malaysia. -- TRP file pic**

**KUALA LUMPUR**, Malaysia must show strong leadership in resolving climate change and how it leverages on the Asean framework on the matter, especially in its dealings with Indonesia, says Ong Kian Ming.

The DAP lawmaker said this after Malaysia and Brunei became the only two countries in Asean that failed to submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) as at Oct 1.

“This does not only put Malaysia in a poor light given its position as the current chair of Asean, but also calls into question Malaysia’s preparedness heading into the Conference of Parties 21 (COP 21) which is scheduled to take place in Paris in December where an ambitious agenda to tackle climate change will be negotiated,” the Serdang Member of Parliament said in a statement.

The INDCs, he explained, were an essential component of the process leading up to COP 21.

Ong said 119 out of 167 countries have submitted their INDCs, including big developing countries such as China, India, Brazil and Indonesia and other smaller developing countries such as Liberia, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

However, he said Malaysia was among countries such as Afghanistan, North Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan and Venezuela as those who had yet to submit their INDCs.

“This is also part of a larger problem in demonstrating lack of leadership in addressing the most important environmental problem facing the country now, which is the haze issue.”

Ong also pointed out that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak’s announcement that Malaysia had already achieved a more than 33% reduction in emissions intensity during the United Nations Climate Summit in New York, but cast doubt on the authenticity of the numbers.

At the summit, Ong said Najib had also reiterated Malaysia’s pledge to reduce Malaysia’s carbon emissions by 40% by 2020.

“Unfortunately, we were never told where these emission reductions came from.

”Indeed, one doubts the authenticity of these numbers as well as Malaysia’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions moving forward especially given our continued reliance on coal powered electricity generating plant.”

From a parliamentary reply Ong received from the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry, it was projected that the generation fuel mix from coal power plants (which contributed far more towards carbon emissions compared to gas fired plants) would increase from 50% in 2015 to 65% in 2022.

He said the percentage of electricity generation from renewable sources was projected to be at a measly 3% by 2020.

Ong said this was in contrast to United States President Barack Obama's recently announced Clean Power Plan which provided strong regulations and incentives to reduce the country's reliance on carbon intensive power plants, especially coal power plants, and move towards renewable energy sources.

"While it is acknowledged that Malaysia and the United States are in very different stages of economic development, it is nonetheless shocking to see the lack of leadership in Malaysia on the issue of climate change.

"I call upon our new Environment and Natural Resources Minister to explain this embarrassing lack of leadership on the part of Malaysia."

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