

Malaysia Committed In Reducing CO2 Emmissions to Curb Global Warming

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PEKAN, March 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is committed to reducing its carbon dioxide (CO2) emission intensity by 40 per cent to address climate change and global warming, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the country had so far, reached the 33 per cent mark, placing Malaysia among the best countries to have successfully reduced CO2 emissions in its development.

"The government has so far, funded 200 green projects nationwide at a cost of RM2.6 billion, in the country's commitment towards reducing the problems of climate change.

"I had expressed this commitment during the 15th Session of the Parties to the Framework Convention of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen 15 (2009) (COP15) to reduce CO2 emissions by 40 per cent, come 2020," he said.

Najib said this when launching the Green Technology Park in Paloh Hinai here Saturday, which was also attended by Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

Also present were International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Lee Chee Leong, Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and BHS Industries chairman Datuk Sohaimi Shahadan.

According to the 11th Malaysia Plan, the government has allocated RM2.3 billion to develop green technology in the country, and hoped it would be assisted by the private sector to drive its implementation.

"We're experiencing very hot weather conditions with the heat wave issue. This means that climate change is a reality whose effects are upon us, be it drought which brings intense heat, or floods which raise the water level.

"Of course, it requires a global effort to tackle climate change by implementing development in a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly manner," said Najib.

The prime minister also commended BHS Industries for its role in developing green technology by building the Green Technology Park in Paloh Hinai, saying it not only positively impacted the environment, but also boosted the economy, particularly in Pekan and Pahang.

He said the seven-phase development which would be executed in the next eight years over 151.7 hectares of land and involving a total investment of RM1.5 billion, could create as many as 5,000 jobs for the local community, including the orang asli.

"The development which will be carried out will utilise waste from plantations of oil palm, which has been always regarded as a miracle plant. All of its parts, such as the fruit, stem and waste can be beneficial to us.

"This is a blessing God has given us, because in Paloh Hinai, Gugusan Chini, Pekan and Keratong, there is a lot of Felda land, and the private sector can take this waste to be used as input, and this will provide additional income to the settlers, as well," he added.

As Pekan Member of Parliament, Najib was also excited with the development which had tremendous potential for growth in the future.

The first phase of the project will begin next month, involving the construction of an oil palm-based pulp and paper mill, expected to begin operations in the first quarter of next year.

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