

4,626 FiT applications approved, says Max

By ROZZALIN HASHIM

SANDAKAN: The Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry through the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) has approved 4,626 Feed-in Tariff (FiT) applications involving 917.2 MW of renewable energy (RE) as of October 30 this year.

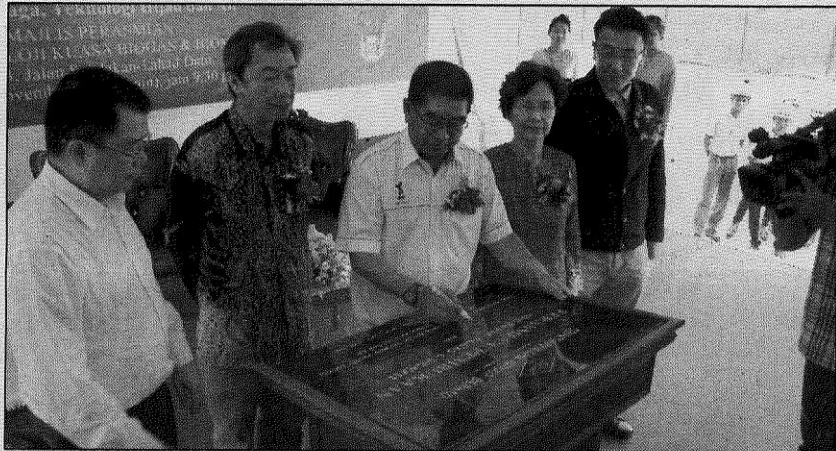
Its minister Datuk Seri Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili said the approvals are for 303.79 MW (biomass), 251.88 MW (Solar Photovoltaic PV) 249.84 MW (minor hydro power) and 111.69 MW (biogas).

He said during the same period, 2,417 projects had commenced commercial operation, produced 242.60 MW from renewal sources.

"For Sabah, SEDA has approved 309 FiT applications to produce 157.8 MW (biomass) 99.7 MW (mini hydro power) and 35MW (solar PV for non individuals) and 11.4 MW (biogas)," he told reporters after opening the Cash Horse (M) Sdn Bhd's biomass power plant at KM63 of the Sandakan-Lahad Datu road near here yesterday. Cash Horse is a subsidiary company of Cepat Wawasan Group Berhad.

Dr Maximus said during the 10 month-period, five had started commercial operation involving 43.4 MW.

Also present yesterday were SEDA chairman Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai, Cepat Wawasan chairman Dato' Seri Mah King Thian and group MD Dato Seri Mah King Seng as well as ministry officials.



Dr Maximus (3rd left) signing on a plaque to mark the opening of the biomass power plant, watched by Dr Yee (left) and others

Earlier, Dr Maximus said Sabah has huge potential in renewable energy and is expected to produce 2,706MW.

And he also said solid biomass from palm refineries is expected to increase to 25 million tonnes a year by 2020 while effluent to 70-110 tonnes.

As such, he said the use of solid biomass and the setting up of palm oil effluent mills is in line with the country's policy to generate power from biomass and biogas.

Dr Maximus meanwhile said Malaysia has succeeded in reducing carbon emission by more than 33 per cent thus far.

Commending Cash Horse, he said the

company's involvement in RE is in line with the government's policy and strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

"Only RE can guarantee our national power security," he said.

Dr Maximus also said the Sabah Grid System would have a bigger capacity with the completion of the two major power plants in Kimanis which have a total power generation capacity of 385MW.

He said many other power projects would be implemented to ensure adequate and uninterrupted power supply across the state.