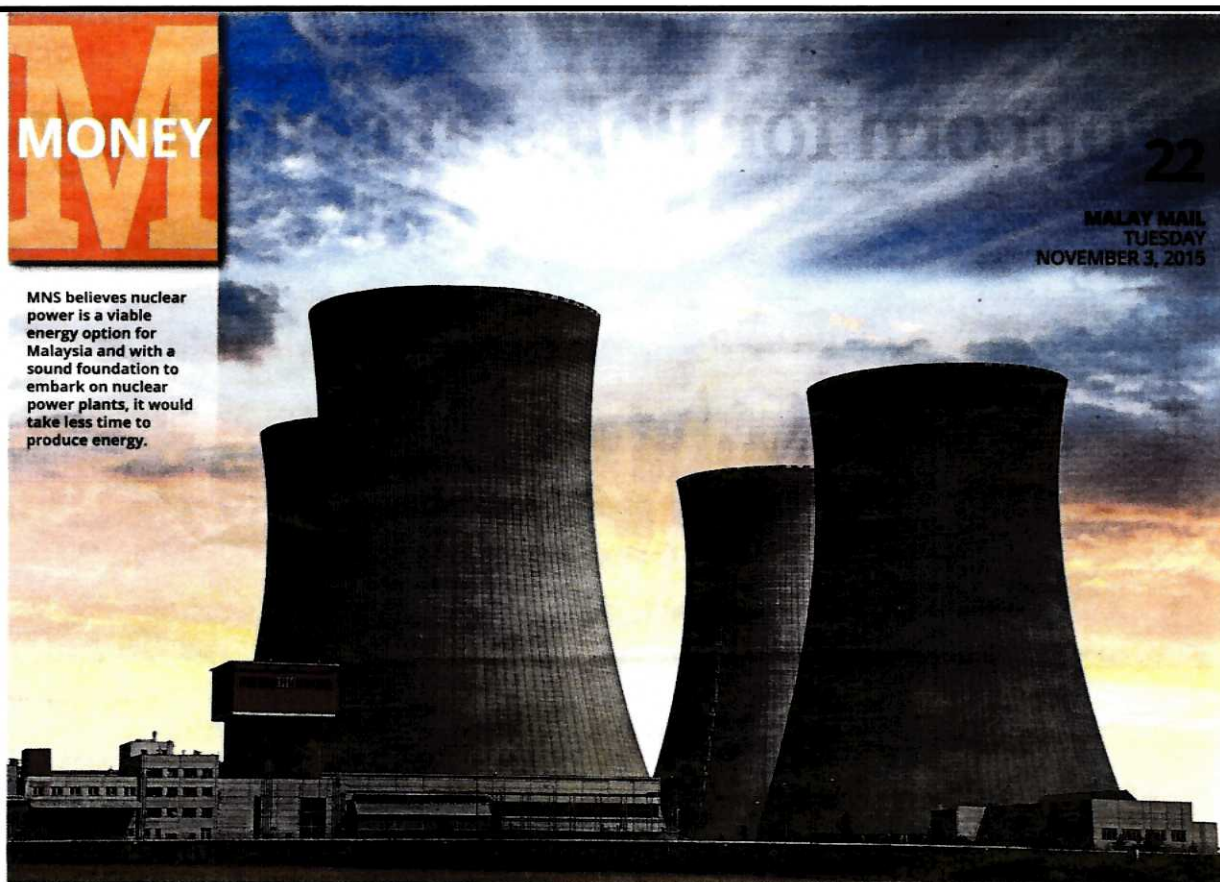


**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
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7.	Top Research Scientists Malaysia	New Straits Times

MONEY

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Nuclear energy a matter of time for Malaysia

By Fatihah Rashid
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KUALA LUMPUR — Declining energy security, instability in oil and gas prices as well as uncertainties in coal outsourcing could lead Malaysia to enter the nuclear energy production fray, said energy experts.

The Malaysian Nuclear Society (MNS) says nuclear energy is a viable option for Malaysia, since it would take less time to produce energy via this technology.

With the target to diversify its sources of energy production, the country seems ready to make a leap towards nuclear power.

"Malaysia will benefit in terms of economic and technological growth, which are important indicators in measuring a nation's development, and we also have a sound foundation to embark on nuclear power plants.

"Normally it would take 15 years for an emerging country to have a nuclear power plant but with some of the expertise and know-how already developed within Malaysia, it will take us less than 10 years," a spokesperson from the MNS said to *Malay Mail*.

Malaysia Nuclear Power Corp (MNPC) director Jamal Khaer Ibrahim had said the earliest possible time that Malaysia will be able to have its first nuclear power plant would be in 2029.

All sources point to the fact that Malaysia

is well equipped to implement its nuclear energy programme as it has the knowledge and the capacity.

In 2013, Malaysia used roughly 24 million tonnes of coal to generate electricity, but because the country's natural coal output is only at around three million tonnes per year, over 20 million tonnes have to be imported yearly, which would reduce the energy security.

The percentage of coal in the power generation mix in Peninsular Malaysia has gone up from 47% in 2013 to 50% in 2015, and is expected to reach 64% by 2019.

The country has also put forward a programme to reduce its over dependence on the now volatile oil and gas industry, thus paving the way for the potential to launch Southeast Asia's first nuclear power plant.

In 2010, the government allocated a RM30 million budget for MNPC to conduct a detailed study, but that budget has yet to be spent.

Malaysia is trying to diversify its energy sources to ensure the country's energy supply security is intact, by relying less on imports such as coal to fire power plants.

Jamal said increasing dependence on coal imports and share of coal in electricity generation is leading to decreasing energy security as well as increasing carbon emissions.

"Nuclear fuel is very concentrated, you do not need much material to generate electricity and you can actually store six to

seven years supply of nuclear fuel within the plant, and even if you cut off supply you can still operate for seven years.

"Each year you would use only about 30 tonnes of uranium, so every year you have to replenish about 30 tonnes, and that is if you operate 24 hours daily. But for coal, you need a shipload every four days, that is what I mean by energy security," he said.

Jamal said diversification of energy sources is important as each energy source has its own advantages and disadvantages, so there is no single answer.

"There has to be a balance, there is no energy source that is without risk or perfect — different sources have different pros and cons," said Jamal.

Currently, coal and gas are two major sources of energy for Malaysia. If problems were to arise with either one, supply would be at risk.

"Coal is mostly imported, so if we have problems with the coal supply, then half our electricity supply will be at risk.

"Gas is still mostly local, but once it runs out we would have to import that as well, so that is the decision the country has to make," Jamal said.

MNS said several efforts and policies have been put in place, such as human resource development efforts, the Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organisation to spearhead the nuclear energy programme and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board which has been regulating the nuclear

applications in Malaysia since 1968.

"Malaysia has been an exemplary nation among Asean countries in terms of collaborations and compliance with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"With a responsible and committed leadership, Malaysia will surely become the leader in nuclear energy utilisation," said MNS.

It believes nuclear power is a viable energy option for Malaysia and with a sound foundation to embark on nuclear power plants, it would take less time to produce energy.

MNPC is finalising reports of a recently-concluded survey to gauge public sentiment to determine the kind of information the public would like to know on nuclear power generation, so it could prepare materials for public communication, which is one of the requirements before the government gives it the go-ahead to identify potential sites for the plant.

The preparation of the material based on the results of the survey, which was carried out among 2,400 respondents would be ready by year-end.

"We have to do the public communication first, until the government says it is okay for us to do the site, but for the moment it has not been done.

"We have just finished the public opinion survey, so based on that survey we are preparing the material on what the public wants to know," said Jamal.

MCMC perkenal label pengguna perkhidmatan DTTB Malaysia

Oleh NADZARUL AMIR ZAINAL AZAM

CYBERJAYA - Dalam era globalisasi yang semakin berdaya saing dan maju, proses perkembangan evolusi dunia penyiaran analog secara berperingkat-peringkat mula beralih kepada digital.

Malaysia tidak terkecuali merasai tempas teknologi yang melanda dunia apatah lagi dalam mengejar status negara maju pada tahun 2020.

Antara inisiatif terpenting dalam Rancangan Malaysia Kesebelas (RMK-11) 2016-2020 merupakan transformasi sistem analog ke digital di bawah naungan Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia (KKMM) dan diselia Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia (MCMC).

Projek berkenaan merupakan agenda nasional untuk mentransformasi industri penyiaran TV percuma negara melalui pendigitalan bertujuan mempertingkatkan taraf hidup rakyat.

Sistem penyiaran televisyen di negara ini bakal merasai perubahan dalam bentuk Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB) pada Januari 2016.

Fasa transformasi berkenaan melibatkan penyediaan liputan siaran DTTB kepada kira-kira 85 peratus kawasan berpenduduk di seluruh negara pada awal 2016.

Malahan, kerajaan menyasarkan peningkatan sehingga 98 peratus penduduk di negara ini akan menikmati siaran digital sepenuhnya menjelang tahun 2017.

Sejajar dengan transformasi penyiaran analog kepada digital yang bakal dinikmati rakyat negara ini, pihak MCMC telah melancarkan label pengguna DTTB Malaysia baru-baru ini.



KETUA Bahagian Perkhidmatan Digital dan Platform Data MCMC, Adrian Abdul Ghani (dua dari kanan) melancarkan label DTTB Malaysia bersama sebahagian panel seminar DTT Receiver Consumer Label di MCMC Tower Cyberjaya.



AZLINA



FAUZIAH

Ketua Jabatan Penciptaan Digital dan Platform Pengedaran MCMC, Azlina Mohd. Yusof berkata, label berkenaan diperkenalkan untuk melindungi kepentingan para pengguna apabila membeli peralatan integrated Digital TV (iDTV) atau Set Top Box (STB)/Dekoder.

"Ia amat penting untuk me-

mastikan para pengguna yang ingin mendapatkan perkhidmatan siaran digital ini tidak tertipu atau pihak tidak bertanggungjawab mengambil kesempatan terhadap mereka.

"Justeru, melalui label ini, para pengguna akan lebih peka bahawa STB atau Dekoder dan iDTV yang dibeli telah diiktiraf untuk mendapat perkhidmatan DTTB terbaik," katanya.

Azlina menjelaskan, label pengguna DTTB Malaysia yang baru dilancarkan itu digalakkan untuk diguna pakai pada produk penerima siaran digital ini serta meyakinkan pengguna bahawa ia mematuhi ketetapan pensijilan oleh MCMC serta SIRIM Berhad (SIRIM).

Beliau berkata, pihak SIRIM akan mengurus tadbir pengeluaran label berkenaan kepada pembekal-pembekal dan pengeluar integrated Digital TV (iDTV) STB/Dekoder.

iDTV adalah TV yang boleh menerima isyarat digital dan STB/Dekoder pula digunakan sebagai alat medium perantaraan bagi TV analog yang sedia ada agar mampu menerima isyarat digital.

Sementara itu, **Ketua Sekyen Pensijilan Komunikasi dan Multimedia SIRIM Qas International, Fauziah Fadzil** pula berkata, pengenalan label DTTB Malaysia bukan sahaja akan memberi kelebihan kepada para pengguna tetapi kepada pembekal dan pengeluar iDTV dan STB/Dekoder.

"Ini kerana ia akan memberi jaminan produk yang ditawarkan mereka mampu menerima

INFO DTTB

- Negara akan migrasi sepenuhnya kepada siaran digital menjelang tahun 2018
- Malaysia kini mempunyai tujuh saluran TV FTA iaitu TV1 dan TV2 siaran Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) dan saluran TV3, ntv7, 8TV dan TV9 yang dimiliki oleh konglomerat Media Prima Berhad serta TV AiiHijrah yang dikendalikan oleh AiiHijrah Media Corporation
- Oleh sebab siaran DTTB menggunakan pemancar bumi (terrestrial), ia tidak akan mengalami gangguan cuaca
- Ia akan dilakukan secara berperingkat-peringkat, bermula dari Pantai Timur iaitu Pahang, Kelantan dan Terengganu
- Kerajaan sasar 98 peratus penduduk di negara ini akan menerima siaran digital secara menyeluruh menjelang 2017

siaran digital percuma yang bakal dinikmati rakyat negara pada tahun hadapan.

"Ia sekali gus tentu sekali akan memberi kelebihan kepada mereka apabila para pengguna ingin membeli iDTV atau STB/Dekoder," ujarnya.

Beliau menjelaskan, pengenalan label pengguna DTTB Malaysia itu adalah digalakkan kepada pengeluar TV setelah para pembekal dan pengeluar mendapat Pensijilan Mandatori MCMC bagi menandakan bahawa produk yang dikeluarkan mematuhi arahan pematuhan.

"Sehingga kini, terdapat kira-kira 168 model iDTV pelbagai jenama yang telah mendapat perakuan SIRIM.

"Antara jenama tersebut ialah Samsung sebanyak 59, Sony (43), Sharp (25), Panasonic (24), LG (12) dan Toshiba (7)," katanya.

