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## Energy Absolute expresses interest to explore Malaysian market, says Anwar

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KUALA LUMPUR (Jan 5): Energy Absolute Malaysia Sdn Bhd, the Malaysian arm of Thailand-based leader Energy Absolute (EA) Public Company Ltd (PCL) Thailand in renewable energy and green technology, has expressed interest to explore the Malaysian market, anchored on the principles such as supporting, investing and driving a pilot project.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the company, which has a strong market capital of 380 billion baht (equivalent to RM45 billion), will collaborate with Computer Forms Malaysia Bhd (CFM) to develop green technology in Malaysia and electric vehicle (EV) technology transfer, among others.

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In his Facebook post on Thursday (Jan 5), the prime minister said the company will build an EV manufacturing facility specifically for the transportation sector such as electric buses, electric school buses, electric boats, electric motorcycles, EV batteries, electric trains, mobile electric cars, and others, worth a total of RM5 billion.

"As Asean Economic Community members, with almost similar culture and heritage, the cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand continues to be strong, with high neighbourhood spirit and collaboration in various relevant fields," he said.

## More EV-related incentives in revised Budget 2023 — minister

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CYBERJAYA (Jan 5): More electric vehicle (EV)-related incentives are in store in the revised Budget 2023, said Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will table the revised Budget 2023 in the Dewan Rakyat on Feb 24.

"The Government is looking forward to announcing more EV-related incentives in the revised Budget 2023," said Nik Nazmi at the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony between Cyberview Sdn Bhd and Roda Emas Industries Sdn Bhd on the development of a smart mobility ecosystem in Cyberjaya here on Thursday (Jan 5).

Then finance minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz tabled a RM372.3 billion Budget 2023, the largest allocation in Malaysia's history, on Oct 7, 2022.

Three days later, Parliament was dissolved to make way for the 15th general election on Nov 19.

After the Unity Government was formed, the Dewan Rakyat on Dec 20 unanimous-

ly approved a RM107.72 billion operating expenditure, and the Consolidated Fund (Accountable Expenditure) Bill 2022.

Nik Nazmi said that through incentives provided by the Government for EVs in 2022, the number of registered EVs had increased to over 2,000.

He said Malaysia, through the Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint 2021-2030, aims to install 10,000 EV charging points by 2025.

"Currently, more than 900 public EV chargers are installed by various charge point operators in Malaysia.

"To support the current and future growth of EVs in terms of charging infrastructure, regulations and standards are being updated to ensure the safety of these premises," he said.

Nik Nazmi added that the Energy Commission had developed the EV charging system licence, and recommended the charge point operators involved in developing such infrastructure in the country to immediately obtain a valid licence for installation no later than March 31 this year.

In a separate statement, Cyberview and REISB said that their collaboration would leverage each other's strengths, knowledge, networks, and capabilities in developing a smart mobility ecosystem that is centred on creating and fortifying the EV infrastructure, adoption of electromobility, and improving energy management in Cyberjaya.

"The partnership will also see Cyberview and REISB explore potential collaboration for the expansion of EV charging stations and management systems to other strategic locations in Malaysia," they said.

## Green transition must promote social, economic equity — Miti

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KUALA LUMPUR (Jan 5): The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (Miti) will strive to ensure that policies on green transition must be just and must promote social and economic equity.

Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said governments around the world are grappling with a new challenge — striking a balance between supporting inclusive economic development and growth, ensuring secure and reliable energy access, and promoting environmental sustainability.

"It is important that governments collaborate to align legal and regulatory frameworks in order to promote investments.

"Miti is committed to drive efforts to attract more electric vehicle (EV) investments and to meet the national target of 15% total industry volume (TIV) for EV and hybrid by 2030, and 38% TIV by 2040," he said.

Tengku Zafrul said this at a joint-venture (JV) agreement signing ceremony between Computer Forms Malaysia Bhd (CFM) and Energy Absolute (EA) Public Company Ltd (PCL) Thailand at The St Regis Kuala Lumpur hotel on Thursday (Jan 5).

He said the alliance signifies a promising partnership to drive the sustainability agendas of both countries in the EV and renewable energy (RE) sectors.

"It is important that governments collaborate to align legal and regulatory frameworks in order to promote investments such as this joint-venture between CFM and EA.

"The combination of RE and greenening public transportation will encourage inclusive economic growth that will benefit both Thailand and Malaysia," he said.

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