

DATE	16.4.15	PAGE	8
DAY	THURSDAY	SECTION	CORPORATE MALAYSIA

RM2b approved under Green Technology Financing Scheme, says deputy minister

A TOTAL of RM2.02 billion was approved to finance 165 projects under the Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS) as of Dec 31, 2014, said Energy, Green Technology and Water Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

The government introduced the GTFS on Jan 1, 2010, with a RM3.5 billion fund for five years to support green technology in Malaysia.

Mahdzir said the use of renewable energy (RE) among individuals and companies could help boost government's efforts to develop the green technology sector, while guar-

anteeing energy efficiency.

His ministry, he added, is undertaking various initiatives through the Sustainable Energy Development Authority Malaysia (Seda Malaysia) to encourage the use of RE by various groups.

"Seda Malaysia is focusing on RE such as solar, biogas, biomass and mini hidro through the provision of quotas for individuals or companies applying to produce RE," he told *Bernama*.

Mahdzir said this includes the implementation of the feed-in tariff system, a mechanism that encourages indi-

viduals and companies to participate in generating electricity from RE sources and consequently contribute to uplifting the green technology sector.

"Apart from providing an income to those concerned through the sale of the electricity generated to Tenaga Nasional Bhd, it will also help reduce electricity usage on the national grid," he added.

Mahdzir said the government is now evaluating more innovative green financing methods, so as to not burden green technology industry players, to develop the sector.

"The main obstacle to developing and applying green technology is access to financing.

"A lot of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) face a challenge in securing funding due to a number of factors, such as lack of a financial track record and weak credit rating.

"Access to financing is key to developing SMEs. As such, close cooperation between financial institutions, businesses as well as government agencies and my ministry is very important in realising the global call for green technology," he added. — *Bernama*