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Electricity bills discounts for sectors affected by Covid-19, says KTS minister

Ministry will ensure the country's electricity supply industry supports the gov't effort to implement the stimulus package

by ASILA JALIL

THE government will give a discount on electricity bills for sectors affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, which is among the measures that will be implemented in the economic stimulus package.

Energy and Natural Resources (KTS) Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah said in a statement that the ministry will also ensure the country's electricity supply industry supports the government's effort to implement the stimulus package by accelerating the implementation of renewable-energy projects and the development of the country's electricity supply infrastructure.

"My officers and I are reviewing the plans that have been made in the energy sector to ensure the initiatives are in place with the new government's policies and aspirations, and to also announce the direction of the country's electricity supply industry under the new government after obtaining detailed explanations on it," he said.

Shamsul Anuar also outlined the plans he has for the ministry to



In an effort to protect and increase national forest area, the gov't through FDP, FRIM and state forestry departments will push a campaign to plant 100m trees in 5 years, starting this year

make Malaysia a developing country through the strengthening of sustainable management for energy and natural resources.

The government is committed to ensuring that at least 50% of the country's land is maintained as forest area and will be covered by trees as stated during the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992.

In an effort to protect and increase national forest area, the government through Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDP), Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and state forestry departments will push a campaign to plant 100 million trees in five years, starting this year.

Among the ministry's plans to

preserve natural resources include increasing research and study on the matter, as well as strengthening legal framework regarding access to biology and biosecurity.

"Biodiversity management requires a holistic and integrated approach since this field involves cross-sectoral linkages. To accomplish this, I will double the effort to

mainstream biodiversity management in the country's main sectors such as health, tourism, agriculture, farming and commodities, mining, infrastructure and energy, transport, as well as industry.

"All relevant parties including state governments have to support this desire in line with the country's commitment on national level," he added.

The cooperation between the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Royal Malaysia Police in Operasi Bersepadu Khazanah, which started last year, will be expanded this year to achieve the aim of zero poaching in the long term.

Meanwhile, the biosecurity department will increase regulations on controlled activities and the release of living, modified organism to ensure that the rapid development of modern biotechnology will not harm humans, plants, animals and the environment.

"Through the Mineral and Geoscience Department, the ministry is reviewing minerals that have the potential to be the country's new source of wealth. The result of this study will be fundamental in development policies that will be guided by the sustainable mining principle to ensure a sustainable environment and the people's safety," added Shamsul Anuar.