KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

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'Renewable energy cuts GHG emissions'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) or carbon dioxide can be reduced by prioritising the generation of electricity supply using renewable energy.

Environment and Water Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang said GHG emissions could also be minimised by encouraging the use of vehicles that are not internal combustion engine-based, Bernama reported.

"The use of waste materials such as garbage, industrial and agricultural waste as reusable materials in the framework of a circular economy should also be given priority in reducing GHG emissions," he said in his official Facebook page.

Zaini also added priority should be given to such measures in support of the Paris Agreement 2015, which was signed to limit GHG emissions based on the goal of sustainable development depending on the capability of each country.

He said prior to the signing of the agreement, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol were established in 1992 and 1997 respectively to discuss issues on GHG emissions.

"Basically GHG emissions (in metric tonnes per capita) is proportionate to gross domestic product. This means the higher the income of a society, the higher the demand for services, goods and 'necessities', which are supplied using energy and other sources that produce GHG emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide."

Zaini said the energy sector produced 80% of GHG emissions that covered electricity supply, vehicles and other energy processed from fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal.

Another 20% is from industrial and waste process, agricultural practices and conversion of land use, among others.

He said so far, the countries which emitted the most GHG emissions are the Gulf countries.