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KBJ and Hanwha develop a 30 MW solar power project in Chuping

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LAUNCHING: Azlan Man (fourth, left) shakes hands with James Lee (second, right) at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the 30MW Large Scale Solar Project in Chuping yesterday. — Named Pictures

PADANG BESAR: A local company, Konsortium Beseri Jaya Sdn Bhd (KBJ), and Hanwha Energy Corp Singapore Pte Ltd (Hanwha) established KBJ Hecmy to invest more than RM220 million to develop 30 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic energy in Kampung Perawah, Chuping.

Hanwha Asia Business Unit Senior Vice President James Lee said KBJ Hecmy successfully bid for the P3 package (10MW to 30MWa) under the Energy Commission's LSS2 (Larger Solar Scale).

Hanwha made a cash investment of US\$10 million in the project, borrowing about US\$50 million from OCBC Bank and Bangkok Bank, he said, adding that the entire project cost about RM250 million.

He spoke to reporters after the groundbreaking ceremony for the project by Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azlan Man at the project site here.

Hanwha is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hanwha Energy Corporation (HEC), South Korea's largest business conglomerate based in Seoul.

In his speech, Azlan said the implementation of the project had a positive impact on the state government's efforts to attract foreign investors to invest in Perlis, especially in the Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA) which is being developed.

He said the central government approved RM50 million in the Third Implementation Plan of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (RMK11) to provide basic infrastructure for CVIA this year while Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) agreed to build one Main Input Substation (PMU) within two years.

According to Azlan, the project offers job opportunities to 400 to 500 people at the construction stage and will require hundreds of skilled and semi-skilled workers when operational.

"A total of 397 land owners will be paid RM5,000 for one relong (3 relong equals 2 acres). This income is better compared to those who work rice paddies once a year with an income of about RM1,000 per relong," he said.

Azlan said the project is the biggest project in Perlis which already has four solar energy producers with a capacity of one to seven MWa.

Meanwhile, KBJ Director, Datuk Dr Hashini Hashim said KBJ Hecmy signed an agreement to supply energy produced to Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) from June next year.

"After this groundbreaking ceremony, we will continue to implement the project so that the installation of the panels is completed according to schedule because we do not want to be penalized by TNB if we are late in supplying energy according to the agreement," he said.

Hashini said the project will be implemented as soon as the agreement is obtained from 397 private land owners involving an area of 125 acres for a period of 21 years. — Named

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