



The government seeks to build Indonesia's new administrative capital Nusantara into a sustainable city through the use of new and renewable energy sources, including solar power

TII: PLTS construction at Nusantara vital to foster energy transition, public participation

Putu Rusta Adijaya, an economic analyst with The Indonesian Institute Center for Public Policy Research (TII), said President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo request to Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong to build a solar power plant (PLTS) in Indonesia's new administrative capital Nusantara must be supported to foster the energy transition.

"Energy transition is a long process and it is definitely not cheap. The government certainly cannot do it alone; it needs support from the investors. This is what President Jokowi was doing by inviting investors from Singapore to build PLTS at Nusantara. If it can be built and is successful, the energy transition target will be within reach," he said, Monday (29/4).

Putu added that PLTS can be built in other regions with abundant sunlight. It can also increase public participation.

"The region in eastern Indonesia has great potential for solar power plant development. If the construction is successful in Nusantara, it can

inspire other stakeholders to follow suits," he said.

"The process requires in-depth study, consultation with indigenous communities, as well as monitoring and evaluation, which will increase public participation in a meaningful and inclusive way to meet the energy needs in their respective regions."

Promoting investment in the renewable energy sector is certainly not a walk in the park as there are many things that must be prepared by the government.

"Despite policy deregulation and provision of incentives, the government still has work to do concerning regulatory clarity, long-term policies and seriousness in realizing the energy transition. Investors will also want to see these in addition to political and economic stability," said Putu.

As is known, the government has committed itself to realizing a green and environmentally friendly capital city. One of such efforts is to utilize environmentally friendly energy sources, such as the 50-mega-

watt PLTS earmarked to be built on 100-hectare land in Sepaku district, North Penajam Paser regency, East Kalimantan. It is expected to meet 10 percent of Nusantara's electricity needs.

Its construction is part of the government's plan to develop new and renewable energy (EBT) in Nusantara. By 2045, as much as 80 percent of Nusantara's energy needs is expected to be generated from EBT.

In addition to the PLTS, a 50 MW power substation will also be built as a stop-gap measure. State power company PLN has also provided Public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (SPKLU) at Nusantara as EVs will become the main mode of transportation in the "smart, forest city".

One clean energy source that will be used there is natural gas. This can be seen from the Nusantara Natural Gas Commercial Scheme signed by the Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM) Ministry and state energy company Pertamina on September 1, 2023. **(eka)**