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Boost for the environs

Duty exemption on hybrid cars extended to next year

THE import duty and excise duty exemption for buyers of hybrid cars has been extended to December next year.

The extension of the exemption is part of the pro-environment measures under the Budget.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak also said that full import duty and a 50% excise duty exemption was granted to franchise holders of hybrid cars up to Dec 31 this year.

Other measures include an allocation of RM1.9bil for the greening of Kuala Lumpur and the River of Life Programme.

The Government also pledged to reduce carbon emission by implementing several measures, including a programme on blending of biofuels with petroleum diesel.

The programme will be made mandatory in Putrajaya, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Malacca from June next year.

Also to be implemented is the Feed in Tariff mechanism under the Renewable Energy Act to allow electricity generated from renewable energy by individuals and independent providers to be sold to electricity utility companies.

Tax exemption on income from trading of carbon credits or certified emission reductions will also be extended until the year of assessment 2012.

Monitor Sustainability of Globalisation director Charles Santiago said hybrid cars would certainly reduce the carbon footprint.

He stressed that the Government should concentrate on making sure that the integrated public transportation system takes off fast.

"Reducing the number of cars with a good public transportation system is one of the most important strategies to reduce carbon emission," he said.

An academian from Akademi Sains Malaysia, Tan Sri Dr Ahmad

Mustaffa Babjee, said the allocation of RM1.9bil was not enough for environmental development, but compared to previous budgets, Budget 2011 had a positive indica-

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Forest Research Institute Malaysia director-general Datuk Dr Abd Latif Mohmod said the pro-green measures showed the national commitment to environment conservation.

Shell Malaysia chairman Anuar Taib said the company would work closely with the related government agencies to realise the national biofuels (biodiesel) policy.