

Headline	State Government plans to take over SESB by 2030 — Hajji		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	04 Jan 2024	Language	English
Circulation	18,290	Readership	54,870
Section	Home	Page No	1
ArticleSize	152 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 1,272		



State Government plans to take over SESB by 2030 — Hajji

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government plans to take over Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) by 2030, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Hajji Noor.

Hajji during a special State Assembly sitting on Wednesday, said that the State Government now owns 17 per cent of SESB while Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) owns the remaining 83 per cent.

"If we are to take back SESB now, we will have to pay therefore we are now looking for a formula to make this plan a reality," he said at the special sitting to amend the Energy Commission of Sabah Enactment to extend the functions and powers of the commission to include matters relating to electricity, renewable energy and non-renewable energy.

"We will take into consideration the suggestions by the assemblymen today including the one by Senallang assemblyman (Datuk Seri Shafie

Apdal) to get TNB to absorb SESB's debt of about RM2 billion.

"If this can be done, we will be very happy thus we can take over SESB as we planned to because in our plan, this will happen seven years from now," he said, adding that Shafie's suggestion may be brought to the discussion table with TNB.

Earlier, Hajji said the main factor contributing to the current electricity supply issue is not only due to a lack of generation capacity but also because of the increase in consumer demand from the usual 900 Megawatts to 1,100 Megawatts within a year resulting from rapid economic development in the state.

Therefore, in line with the Sabah Energy Roadmap and Master Plan 2040 (SE-RAMP 2040) launched on September 19, 2023, the primary focus of the State Government is to ensure that the short-term generation development plan is implemented on a fast-track basis to achieve a

robust generation spare capacity of 30 per cent as soon as possible, he stressed.

According to him among the steps to be taken are leasing of diesel-based power sets up to 100 MW in phases with 40 MW in December 2023 and 60 Megawatts in March 2024 and the existing diesel-based power plant operation in Tawau will continue with 70 MW.

He added that preparation for a Large Scale Solar (LSS) project of 62 MW is planned for 2024 and the proposal to install a 100 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), initially scheduled for completion in 2026, will be expedited for readiness in 2024.

A 100MW gas-based plant will be leased on an interim basis until a permanent 100MW gas plant is constructed and the operation of green energy sources through the Feed-in Tariff program from mini hydro sources with a capacity of 31.6

MW and biogas with a capacity of 5.6 MW in 2024.

An addition of a 100 MW LSS project is planned for 2025, Hajji said.

He told the House that to ensure the sustainability of sufficient generation capacity, medium and long-term generation development plans will also be implemented.

This includes adding generation capacity from hydro sources totalling approximately 400 MW, a 100 MW LSS project and other generation projects.

Additionally, there are also main transmission line projects of 275 KV, namely the preparation of interconnection transmission lines between Sabah and Sarawak and the Southern Link transmission line project.

This will further strengthen the capacity and stability of the Sabah grid to accommodate large load demands, especially from industrial users in the future, Hajji said.