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# New power line plan disrupted

Setapak flats management says replacement project hampered by lack of funds

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DANAU Kota Flats management corporation's (MC) plan to prevent a possible recurrence of a major power outage at one of its blocks is hampered by the lack of funds.

The electricity disruption at Block C of the flats in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur, on Aug 25 was believed to have been caused by a power surge.

It affected 418 residential units and 11 shops at the flats that day.

The MC's plan is to replace the building's main electricity transmission line.

However, the MC is short of funds because not all residents have been paying their monthly maintenance fees.

Block C chairman David Lim said a meeting would be held today with relevant parties to solve the problem, including getting a price quotation to have the main power transmission lines replaced.

"Nearly half of the residents are not paying the maintenance fees despite it being only RM60 a month.

"We hope tenants can pay up so that the MC can carry out maintenance work," he said.

Lim said the power disruption affected the entire block and that electricity supply resumed on the same day for units from the ground floor to Level 10.

"The units above Level 10 had to endure another two nights of blackout because the main electricity transmission lines servicing the top floors were faulty and needed to be replaced.

"We have installed smaller cables to temporarily solve the problem, but the residents should not use excessive electricity as the power cables may not be able to cope with the demand," he said.

Wangsa Maju MP Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew, whose constituency includes Setapak, said Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) investigation found that the incident occurred because of a power surge.

"Many household appliances were damaged in the incident."

She revealed that electricity theft was also being committed at the flats.

"Some residents installed illegal extensions to steal electricity when their supply was cut after they failed to pay their electricity bills.

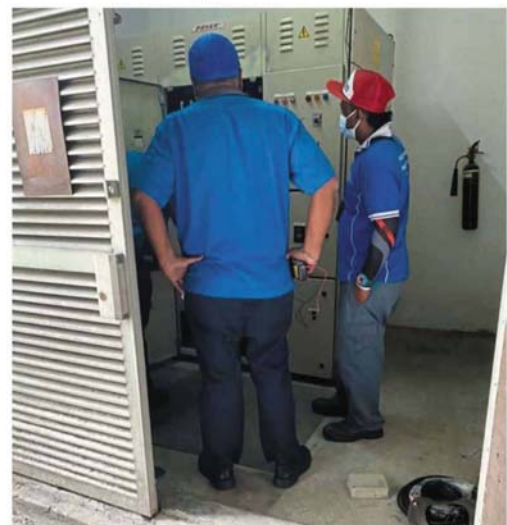
"Due to the overload, power supply is often interrupted.

"The MC had lodged numerous reports to TNB about the issue," she said.

Dr Tan said she would meet with the flat's joint management body (JMB) and MC to sort out matters there.

She also said that TNB planned to replace the current power meters in Danau Kota flats with new smart meters this month.

"Once the new electric meter is in place, TNB can identify the households that are stealing electricity," she added.



Contractors checking the power station at Danau Kota Block C after a power disruption.