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Cable fire: Warisan's Chin raps SESB, Water Dept

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Page 1 of 2

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KOTA KINABALU: Lawyer Chin Tek Ming (**pic**) of Parti Warisan criticised Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) and the State Water Department for negligence, resulting in a fire at a cable warehouse in Inanam.



The fire destroyed cables worth around RM40 million according to report.

Chin claimed the fire not only caused significant economic losses but could also impact the State's power supply, causing inconvenience to the people.

He questioned why SESB and the State Water Department did not take necessary preventive measures to avoid such a fire.

"According to reports, when the fire broke out, firefighters initially used fire hydrants, but the water supply only lasted for 40 minutes before running dry, forcing them to pump water from the Menggatal River that is 1.2km away," he said in a statement while praising the hard work by the firefighters.

He claimed this indicated serious negli-

gence in fire safety by SESB and the State Water Department.

To this end, he demanded a thorough investigation by SESB, whose Chairman is Datuk Seri Madius Tangau, into the cause of the fire and why necessary preventive measures were not taken.

He also demanded that the investigation outcome be made public as the public, who are tax-payers, have the right to know.

Chin suggested that SESB should sue the State Water Department and seek compensation because the lack of water hindered firefighting efforts, resulting in substantial asset losses.

He said an explanation is also warranted from Deputy Chief Minister cum Works Minister Datuk Shahelmey Yahya, who previously claimed that water supply issues in the State had not reached a critical stage.

"Why did firefighters face a water shortage during this incident if the Minister was not wrong.

"The State Government must take this fire incident seriously and implement necessary measures to prevent similar tragedies from happening again," he said.