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## Kinabatangan villagers now enjoy 24-hour electricity supply

**KINABATANGAN:** The long wait of Kampung Balat Kinabatangan folks to enjoy uninterrupted electricity finally ended with the commissioning of the power station in the village.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Panglima Bung Moktar Radin said the 400 villagers in Kampung Balat are now enjoying 24-hour electricity supply.

The power station which started operating on August 1 this year is part of the former Barisan Nasional (BN) government's Rural Electricity Supply Project, he said.

According to Bung Moktar, the villagers previously depended on kerosene or gas lamps and generator sets for their power supply.

He said this after officiating the Kinabatangan level 'Majlis Penyerahan Sumbangan Ceria Ke Sekolah TNB/SESB' on Friday.

During the event which also included contributions handed over to SESB's adopted school, Bung Moktar who is also Kinabatangan Member of Parliament officially launched the Kampung Balat power station.

The Works Minister stressed that SESB's efforts to supply electricity to Kampung Balat reflected the utility company's concern towards issues faced by

folks living in the rural areas.

Bung Moktar who is also Lamag assemblyman, expressed hope that more villages which are without electricity supply will be given due attention according to the set regulations.

"It is my hope that the Rural Development Ministry will implement all the Rural Electricity Supply Projects planned. I was made to understand the RM120.5 million has been allocated to implement the project and get three zones in Sabah connected to the grid," he said.

Bung Moktar believed this initiative will help improve the living standards of the people in the rural areas and villages which were 'in the dark' previously will be illuminated allowing villagers to carry out daily activities without having to use a generator.

"This effort will also see the socio-economic development in the villages involved continue to grow," he said adding that the as the power station has a high capacity of 700 megawatts the electricity it produces will also be channeled to several other villages in the area.

He said the residents of Kampung Pinangah had also enjoyed 24-hour electricity supply last month and several nearby villages would be ensured to enjoy the same facility in the near future.