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24-hour power supply for 400 K'batangan villagers

Winnie Kasmir

KINABATANGAN: Some 400 villagers of Kampung Balat, here, can now enjoy 24 hours of electric supply through Balat Power Station (Stesen Janakuasa Balat) powered by Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB).

Deputy Chief Minister cum Kinabatangan Member of Parliament Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin said the Balat Power Station began its operations on August 1.

"This Rural Electricity Supply (BELB) project has ended the misery of Kampung Balat villagers who previously had to depend on generators and traditional kerosene lamps.

"The BELB project in Kampung Balat began in 2013 with an allocation from the Rural Development Ministry but had taken time to complete due to various constraints.

"I hope this 24-hour electric supply can also be enjoyed by nearby villages such as Kampung Sangau as the capacity of this power station is 700MW and the current usage is only 17 MW," said Bung, who is also State Works Minister, when launching the Balat Power Station, Friday.

The ceremony was held together with the presentation of "Ceria ke Sekolah" programme of TNB/SESB at Kinabatangan Parliament level at the Kinabatangan District Education Office.

Also present were SESB Chief Executive



Bung signing the plague to mark the launching the Balat Power Station.

Officer Datuk Ir. Abdul Nasser Abdul Wahid and Kinabatangan District Education Officer Munah Nasri.

According to Abdul Nasser, the "Ceria ke Sekolah" programme is one of TNB and SESB's corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

"A total of 300 school children from the B40 category benefited from this programme whereby each of them received school assistance to start their 2022 school session. "The assistance are shoes, socks, school bags, dictionary, stationary and money pocket of RM50 for each student," he said.

Apart from that, SESB is also implementing "Program Sekolah Angkat" as its CSR and had chosen Sekolah Kebangsaan (SK) Kuamut, Kinabatangan as the recipient

For this programme, SESB presented a one-off contribution amounting to RM34,000 to help upgrade the school's facilities for more conducive learning.