

Headline	Warisan has the vision to reform SESB - Wong		
MediaTitle	Borneo Post (KK)		
Date	13 Jan 2024	Language	English
Circulation	18,290	Readership	54,870
Section	Home	Page No	5
ArticleSize	247 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 4,131		



Warisan has the vision to reform SESB – Wong

KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Junz Wong, Vice-President of the Parti Warisan, has addressed concerns surrounding recent development of Sabah Electricity Sdn. Bhd. (SESB).

This development comes following Wong's remarks during the presentation of the Sabah Energy Commission 2024 Bill at the Sabah State Legislative Assembly on Jan 3, 2024.

The central issue revolves around the financial status of SESB, with new Chairman Datuk Seri Panglima Wifred Madius Tangau claiming that the company is "technically bankrupt."

Wong begs to differ regarding this "technically bankrupt" statement. Wong appraised SESB's ability to contribute to Business Zakat amounting to RM7,505,667 in March 2023.

"This is good and I strongly recommend SESB to continue to

give more Zakat contributions in future because this shows SESB is financially resilient and is making profit," said Wong.

"As Muslim teaching goes, Business Zakat should only be paid if the entity has generated profits. That means SESB made profit which is good news so paying Zakat is a good move and this should continue," Wong explained.

Secondly, Wong wanted the new chairman to come clean whether he has indeed employed 13 new officers in his office.

"Is his decision appropriate

to recruit 13 new employees if SESB is indeed in dire financial straits?" Wong asked.

"I know YB Dato Seri Madius Tangau and we exchanged messages too but I hope he won't take this personally as the public has the right to know how much is the total monthly salary for these new 13 staff because the public will be paying for their salary through SESB bills. There is certainly an urgent need for SESB transparency and accountability," Wong added.

This discrepancy raises questions about the new

chairman's statements and his understanding of SESB's financial situation. Wong urges transparency, calling for accurate financial accounts to be made available.

Wong, who is also the State Assemblyman for Tanjung Aru claimed that SESB can be quickly turned into a financially sound company because SESB monopolises the sector as the only entity to provide electricity.

"There is no reason why a monopoly business cannot make profit except for two reasons that I can think of; corruption and total incompetence."

Wong proposed a series of recommendations for SESB's consideration so that SESB can overcome the financial challenges;

1. Re-Negotiate with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for reasonable and beneficial power purchase rates.

2. Ensure responsible procurement practices within SESB to prevent wasteful spending, wastages and leakages.

3. Discourage business-class travel for SESB employees, promoting a culture of practicality and fiscal responsibility.

4. Eliminate Fixed Delivery Price Schedules with selected companies, including Unumekar Sdn. Bhd., Penulaju Sdn. Bhd., and REMT Utama Sdn. Bhd., along with their sub-contractor, Larico Infrastructure Sdn. Bhd.

5. Cease the practice of awarding contracts for transmission and distribution line maintenance without proper tender processes.

6. Avoid extravagant meetings or events at five-star hotels, focusing on cost-saving measures to help SESB regain profitability without imposing electricity rate hikes on Sabah's

residents and businesses.

"Increasing electricity tariffs must be the last resort. I must stress here that Warisan did not initiate the move to take back SESB so that SESB can increase tariff and burden Sabahans," said Junz.

To ensure that there's check and balance as far as SESB is concerned, Parti Warisan will establish a Watchdog to oversee SESB performances.

This Watchdog will provide a platform for Sabah's citizens to voice their concerns and complaints about SESB's services. It will also address wastage and mismanagement within SESB.

"We have the political will and

are committed to whatsoever necessary measures to be implemented for the betterment of SESB and the people of Sabah when Parti Warisan forms the next Sabah government," he said.

We have the political will and are committed to whatsoever necessary measures to be implemented for the betterment of SESB and the people of Sabah when Parti Warisan forms the next Sabah government.

Datuk Junz Wong