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## Give Sabah Electricity investigative powers - Ewon

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Kadamaian assemblyman Datuk Ewon Benedick has proposed that Sabah Electricity be granted investigative powers under the Electricity Supply Enactment 2024, as a step to strengthen its role in enforcing energy supply regulations in the state.

Ewon said the move is important to effectively address issues such as electricity theft, which contributes to instability in the energy supply.

"As an initial step, Sabah Electricity should also be empowered with enforcement authority under the Electricity Supply Enactment 2024, whereby the Sabah Energy Commission can delegate powers to Sabah Electricity to carry out enforcement-related matters," he said.

He made the call during his debate speech at the Sabah State Legislative Assembly sitting here on Monday.

Ewon, who is also the Federal Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives, said Sabah's economic and entrepreneurial sectors require a consistent supply of electricity and other utilities to ensure competitive economic growth and to attract investment to the

state.

"I believe the Sabah Government is currently developing plans to enhance the provision of these utilities to drive economic growth and investment interest," he added.

Ewon also stressed the need for long-term planning for Sabah Electricity, especially following the full handover of energy regulatory authority to the Sabah State Government.

"The full transfer of Sabah Electricity to the State Government within the past seven years calls for planning on how this company can eventually operate independently and become the state's main energy provider," he said.

He further suggested that Sabah Electricity should not rely solely on purchasing energy from independent power producers (IPPs), but should instead generate its own electricity as a state-owned company.

"With the current electricity tariff and high dependency on federal government subsidies, it is time for the state to plan for Sabah Electricity to become a state GLC (government-linked company) that generates its own power and can potentially be listed on Bursa Malaysia," he said.