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**KOTA KINABALU:** Telupid assemblyman Datuk Jonnybone Kurum said that the government is working hard to resolve Sabah's longstanding infrastructure challenges.

When tabling the resolution to support the government's policy speech that was delivered by Head of State Tun Musa Aman last Thursday, the Parti Bersatu Youth chief pointed out that problems like water disruption and power outages often stem from natural disasters and logistical setbacks rather than administrative neglect.

"These problems do exist, I won't deny that but it's not fair to say they are entirely the government's fault.

"For instance, flooding has repeatedly damaged the Water Department's equipment, and when that happens, repairs take time."

He pointed to Telupid as a case in point, noting that access roads to water pump intake sites often get cut off by floods, further complicating restoration efforts.

"That is under JKR's purview. I have consistently urged both JKR and the Water Department to act quickly."

On the issue of unstable electricity supply, Jonnybone defended Sabah Electricity, saying the company has been doing its best under difficult circumstances.

"In Telupid, power cuts are often tied to the Pan Borneo Highway construction, which has disrupted underground cables. The relocation of utilities has not kept pace with the stalled highway project. It is not as simple as flipping a switch," he pointed out.

He noted that cables left hanging by the roadside are vulnerable to theft, causing even more blackouts in surrounding villages.

"Sometimes while we're still celebrating Hari Raya, we arrive to the dewan (hall) to find a blackout already happening.

Social media blames the government, but in reality, it was cable theft," he lamented

Jonnybone also shared that Sabah Electricity continues to rent mobile generators for Telupid due to a damaged transformer component at one of the villages which is awaiting replacement parts.

"With no other option, they've stationed a lorry with a genset there, it's been at least two or three months now.

"This is the kind of short-term solution being done while waiting for funds and permanent fixes."

He said the public needs to be more understanding, as the authorities are not sitting idle.

These people are working day and night, he said.

Addressing criticism directed at the current government, Jonnybone reminded fellow lawmakers that many of the issues pre-date the present administration.

"These are not new problems. These are problems we inherited, problems we all had a hand in. Some in this very assembly have been in office for 30 years,

including as MPs and ministers. Let us not pretend these are fresh failures," he said.

He also pushed back against political rhetoric claiming superiority over the current government, adding, "If anyone says they can do better just because they are getting a second shot, I call that dishonest and rhetorical. Everyone has had their chance."

While acknowledging public frustrations over poor road conditions, Jonnybone defended the Sabah Maju Jaya development plan, calling it a structured roadmap that needs political stability to succeed.

"People ridicule it because the roads are still bad. That's fair criticism. But at least we share the same hope, to see Sabah progress.

"Do not mock the plan. We are the ones who will leave behind these legacies," he said.

In closing, Jonnybone called for unity and maturity in politics, lamenting that partisan divisions have only hindered progress.

"When the government does something, it's deemed wrong. When we propose something, it's dismissed. Wouldn't it be better if we work together and give the people some confidence?"

He stressed that building Sabah should be a collective responsibility, not a battleground.

Jonnybone also said that all parties must accept the reality that efforts to curb corruption in Sabah must begin with personal accountability rather than pointing fingers at others.

He opined that the state could have achieved greater progress long ago if individuals had taken a firm stand against corruption from the start.

"On the topic of corruption, I do not want to go too deep because it is a broad issue and often tied to perception. Corruption is only confirmed when it has been brought to court and decided otherwise, it remains a matter of perception and general talk," he said.

"If you claim that you are free of corruption, I think you should reflect on yourself first. And if you say that the current or previous governments were never involved in corruption, well ... I find that hard to believe too," he said.

He made the remarks in response to Merotai assemblyman Sarifuddin Hata who had interjected to ask whether integrity should go hand-in-hand with unity in developing Sabah.

Jonnybone stressed that if the goal is to truly prevent corruption, it must begin with individual awareness and action.

"We can't truly know what lies within others, but we can lead by



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example through our actions," he said.

"If Sabah had been corruption-free from the beginning, we would be much more advanced today.

"But if we accept the reality that corruption can be curbed collectively — through personal responsibility, then let's stop blaming others," he concluded.