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Tower collapse causes massive power outage

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KOTA KINABALU: A landslide in Kampung Sarapung, Penampang, near here, caused a Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd transmission tower to slip, leading to a major power outage in the east coast of Sabah on Saturday night.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said nearly 230,000 consumers were affected, with disruptions reported in Sandakan, Lahad Datu, Kinabatangan, Kunak, Semporna and Beluran.

He said Sabah Electricity's technical team is working around the clock to restore supply.

"Among the works being carried out are conductor bridging, installation of an emergency tower within eight days as part of short-term measures, followed by the construction of a permanent tower.

"The state government understands the inconvenience currently faced by the people.

"Let's unite and pray so that everything will go through smoothly, especially for those hit by the power outage," he said in a statement yesterday.

On Saturday, Sabah Electricity confirmed that several east coast districts were plunged into darkness after a disruption in the 275KV Kolopis-Segaliud transmission line involving line 1 and 2 at 5.05pm.

The Sarapung landslide was not the only earth movement incident reported in the state.

Seven other landslides have struck Kampung Kopungit, Kepayan, since Saturday, damaging two houses.

Kota Kinabalu Fire and Rescue Station chief Ordine Gilu said the station received a report from the Kampung Kopungit Village Development and Security Committee and subsequently conducted an inspection with other agencies. Officers from the Sabah Minerals and Geosciences Department later confirmed that the soil structure in the area was unstable.



The transmission tower which collapsed following the landslide at Kampung Sarapung.

– PIC COURTESY OF SAYANG SABAH FACEBOOK PAGE

"If the rainy weather continues, the area remains at high risk of further landslides, which could endanger residents' safety. The Fire and Rescue Department, together with the agencies involved, has instructed two affected families to move to the Kampung Kopungit village hall.

Continuous monitoring is being carried out and updates will be provided as needed," he said when contacted.

Residents, meanwhile, voiced their fears. Mazlan Dullah, 37, said his family and

neighbours have struggled to sleep since the first landslide.

"Every time it rains, our hearts race because we are afraid another landslide might occur," said the father of two.

Shop assistant Rahmah Kitin, 45, urged authorities to provide a long-term solution, noting that many villagers were reluctant to leave their ancestral land.

"We are not rich and cannot afford to buy a new house," said the mother of five. – Bernama