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Tenom Pangi hydro plant back in operation



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TENOM: The Tenom Pangi hydroelectric power plant is back in operation, after being damaged in a flood and landslide two years ago.

The plant, which generates 66mw of electricity for Sabah, was reopened by State Works Minister Datuk Shahelmey Yahya on Wednesday.

He said the State Government was committed to ensuring a stable power supply for users while enhancing infrastructure for development and investment purposes.

Shahelmey, who is also Deputy Chief Minister III, said it was vital to mix in other clean power sources such as solar, biomass

and biogas in the generation of renewable energy to meet the increasing demand for electricity.

“The Ulu Padas hydroelectric project, which is set to be completed by 2029, is another we are waiting for,” he said.

He said several mega projects currently in planning and implementation were expected to increase Sabah's power reserve margins by 30pc in 2030.

On the Tenom Pangi plant, Shahelmey said it is the largest run-off river system in the country and is also celebrating its 40th operation anniversary this year.

Sabah Electricity Chief Executive Officer Mohd Yaakob Jaafar said the reoperation of

three turbines commenced in phases from October last year, with the third one operational from last month.

The reopening of this hydro power plant is expected to strengthen Sabah's power reserve margin.

Thousands of manpower from three main companies - Bersatu Transport Enterprise, Wijaya Daya Sdn Bhd and TB Remaco Sdn Bhd - were involved in the recovery of this power plant.

This power plant was destroyed on Oct 31, 2022, when boulders and mud floods destroyed the area and trapping at least eight staff. They were eventually rescued with no major injuries.