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SIPITANG: Sabah Electricity will step up its efforts to improve the safety of electrical contractor workers statewide following 14 accidents recorded over the past two years.

Its Chief Executive Officer, Mohd Yaakob Jaafar, said that among the incidents, one involved a contractor in Marak Parak, several involved livestock, while most occurred due to contractors performing electrical work beyond the permitted scope, including cases in Kota Marudu and Beaufort.

"Most of these incidents were caused by a lack of basic safety knowledge among contractor workers, particularly when working near high-voltage power lines," he said during his visit to the Mengalong Main Input Substation (PMU) in Sipitang on May 14. To make matters worse, many contractors are not fully aware of the safety procedures that must be followed in high-risk areas," he added.

In response, Yaakob announced that Sabah Electricity will collaborate with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and telecommunications companies to organize safety courses and awareness talks.

"This programme is intended to improve the awareness and understanding of safety practices when working near high-voltage power lines," he said.

In addition, Sabah Electricity is partnering with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to ensure that every contractor working on electricity-related projects possesses a NIOSH card relevant to the telecommunications sector.

"Sabah Electricity also encourages contractor workers to obtain a special pass in the electrical field, equivalent to the Malaysian Professional Skills Passport (MPSP) qualification, which is already mandatory for internal staff," Yaakob explained.

He said that such qualifications will help enhance safety awareness among contractor workers and significantly reduce the risk of accidents near high-voltage infrastructure.

"This integrated effort is expected to raise safety standards in the field and ensure that electrical projects can be carried out more safely and efficiently," he concluded.