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Borneo Grid Plan to connect Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei

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KUCHING: The successful realisation of the Asean Power Grid will depend on the readiness of participating countries to upgrade their respective electricity infrastructure, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Amar Fadillah Yusof.

Fadillah, who is also Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation, said while plans for an interconnected regional power network are progressing, implementation timelines will ultimately be determined by each country's capacity to modernise its grid system.

"The role of the Asean Centre for Energy (ACE) in Jakarta is to harmonise standards relating to cross-border energy supply.

"The challenge is that some countries are still unable to upgrade their grid systems, but we already have an existing linkage from Laos to Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore," he told reporters after officiating at the opening of the new Surau Nurul Muslimin building in Kampung Sungai Bedil Besar here.

He said Sarawak is already connected to West Kalimantan and Sabah, with plans to extend the network to Brunei to establish what is envisioned as the Borneo Grid.

The proposed network would eventually connect Sarawak, Kalimantan, Sabah and Brunei before expanding to other parts of Indonesia and the Philippines.

"From Kuching, the connection will eventually extend to Peninsular Malaysia through Johor. Part of it will continue to Singapore and, subject to feasibility studies, to Batam.

"Thailand is already connected by land, while another undersea cable is planned from Kota Bharu to Vietnam, before con-



tinuing to Cambodia and Laos. That is the long-term regional planning," he said.

Fadillah added that in Peninsular Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional Berhad has committed to investing approximately RM42 billion until 2028 to upgrade its transmission infrastructure, including converting parts of the network to a 500 kilovolt (kV) grid system.

"Sarawak will also eventually have to upgrade its own grid," he said.

On the proposed submarine cable linking Sarawak and Johor, Fadillah said the project remains in the preparatory stage, pending approval from Indonesia for seabed surveys.

"We are still waiting for approval for the route because around 60 to 70 per cent of it passes through Indonesian waters.

"We have already submitted the necessary request, and once approval is obtained, the consultants and all relevant parties will carry out seabed surveys to determine the most suitable cable alignment," he said.

On the event, Fadillah stressed that places of worship should serve not only as centres for religious activities but also as spaces that foster community unity and harmony.

"For me, places of worship are where the local community gathers not only to learn about religion but also about life and to ensure harmony."