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Sabah Electricity should be part of energy council

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KOTA KINABALU: The chairman of the Malaysian National Consumer Foundation (YPMN), David Chan, has suggested that Sabah Electricity be appointed as a permanent member of the Sabah Energy Council (METS).

According to him, this step is crucial to ensure that energy-related matters, including electricity supply, can be effectively managed in line with the needs and realities of the energy ecosystem in Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

"As the entity responsible for electricity generation, transmission and supply, Sabah Electricity has a deep understanding of the challenges and requirements of the grid system.

"For instance, issues related to baseload capacity, reserve margins and the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) require the technical expertise of Sabah Electricity to find viable solutions," he said in a statement on Friday.

David noted that the absence of Sabah Electricity's permanent voice in the METS poses a risk of decisions being made without real operational data and experience.

"For context, Sabah Electricity also has independent operational entities such as the Grid System Operator (GSO) and Single Buyer (SB). These functions ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the grid system.

"As I understand it, Sabah Electricity has not been made a permanent member of METS



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due to concerns about potential conflicts of interest, given that it is the sole electricity utility provider in Sabah.

"However, in my view, this should not be an issue. Sabah Electricity is one of the three government-linked companies (GLCs) that have obtained MS ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management Systems (ABMS) certification from the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), a certification that requires rigorous and integrity-

based evaluation.

"At the same time, some may have overlooked the fact that, as a GLC, this utility company is directly owned by and contributes to the Sabah state government's revenue," David explained.

Therefore, he stated that Sabah Electricity's inclusion in the METS is not just a technical necessity but also a strategic one.

He added that this aligns with METS's role in determining critical policies, including electricity tariffs, gas distribution and power generation strategies.

"When electricity supply in Sabah was still under federal regulation, this company was also included as a permanent member of the Electricity Supply and Tariff Planning, Implementation, and Execution Committee (JPPPET).

"Apart from Sabah Electricity, JPPPET also includes the Energy Commission (ST), the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA), Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), and several other stakeholders.

"In my opinion, the functions of METS are closely related to those of JPPPET. My question is, why is Sabah Electricity not included as a permanent member?"

"Therefore, I urge the Sabah government to grant Sabah Electricity a permanent seat in METS to ensure that all policy decisions and planning are truly comprehensive and effective in addressing energy issues, particularly electricity supply in Sabah," David added.