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Sabah urgently need power supply plan to support growing industrial demand

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Vice President Sim Fui has urged the federal government to swiftly implement a power supply plan for Sabah to support the state's growing industrial demand.

He emphasized that with the development of three new industrial zones in Sabah, the current power supply is insufficient to meet the needs of medium and heavy industries, making it imperative for the government to take action and build power infrastructure that aligns with future development demands.

Sim pointed out that while Sabah's industrial development prospects are promising, one of the key bottlenecks is inadequate power supply. The existing 132kV and 275kV power infrastructure cannot sustain the energy demands of large-scale industrial activities.

In a statement issued on Monday, he stressed that Sabah needs a modernized power system with sufficient generation capacity, especially one that can support heavy industries and high-energy consumption sectors.

He stated, "The new industrial zones in Sabah will undoubtedly bring significant economic opportunities, but without adequate power supply, all of this will be meaningless."

Sim asserted that renewable energy sources such as wind, palm biomass and solar power are not viable solutions for meeting the electricity demands of medium and heavy industries.

"While renewable energy is the future, what we urgently need now is a more reliable and stable energy solution," he said.

To address this issue, Sim proposed the construction of a 2,000MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant on Sabah's west coast, along with the development of a new 500kV southern transmission line.

Additionally, he urged for an upgrade of the entire state's power grid from the current 132kV and 275kV to 500kV to meet electricity demands for the next decade.

"These measures will provide a strong power supply foundation for Sabah's industrial



Sim Fui

development. If we don't act now, future industrial projects will struggle to launch and may even stagnate. We must take immediate action and not waste any more time," he emphasized.

Sim also highlighted that power generation and supply fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Under the Federal Constitution, the federal government is responsible for funding and ensuring the planning and implementation of power projects, particularly those critical to Sabah's economic future.

"We cannot rely entirely on renewable energy," he reiterated. "While renewable energy has great potential globally, for large-scale industrial zones and heavy industries in Sabah, gas-fired power generation remains the most practical and reliable choice."

Sim called on the federal government to expedite relevant plans and immediately commence the construction of the 2,000MW CCGT power plant to ensure sufficient power supply for Sabah's emerging industries and to lay a solid foundation for the state's long-term economic growth.

"Our goal is to make Sabah an industrial hub in Southeast Asia within the next 10 years, attracting more investments and creating more jobs. However, this vision can only become a reality with a stable power supply," he stressed. He further emphasized that Sabah's industrial development is not just a local issue but a national economic concern. Only through close collaboration between the federal and state governments can the power supply challenges be effectively addressed, allowing Sabah's industrialization to progress steadily.