



19 JAN, 2025

## NGO: Why is SE not in Sabah Energy Council?

Daily Express (KK), Malaysia



# NGO: Why is SE not in Sabah Energy Council?

KOTA KINABALU: Malaysian National Consumer Foundation (YPMN) Chairman David Chan (pic) said Sabah Electricity should be appointed a permanent member of the Sabah Energy Council (MTS).



He said this step is crucial to ensuring energy-related matters, including electricity supply, are effectively managed in alignment with the operational realities and needs of the energy ecosystem in Sabah and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

"As the entity responsible for electricity generation, transmission and supply, Sabah Electricity possesses an in-depth knowledge of the challenges and requirements of the grid system.

"Issues such as baseload adequacy, reserve margins and Saidi (System Average Interruption Duration Index) require the technical expertise of Sabah Electricity to find viable solutions," David said.

The absence of Sabah Electricity as a permanent member of MTS risks decisions being made without sufficient data or real-world operational insights.

David said Sabah Electricity has independent operational entities like the Grid System Operator (GSO) and Single Buyer (SB) to ensure the grid system's integrity and efficiency.

"However, Sabah Electricity is reportedly excluded from permanent membership in MTS due to concerns about potential conflict of interests, as it is the sole utility company supplying electricity in Sabah," he said.

He disagreed with this notion, emphasising that Sabah Electricity is one of three Government-Linked Companies (GLCs) certified with the Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS) by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), demonstrating its adherence to strict and transparent evaluation standards.

"Sabah Electricity, as a GLC, is directly owned by the State Government and contributes revenue. Sabah Electricity's membership in MTS is not only a technical

necessity but also a strategic requirement," he said.

The council plays a critical role in determining essential policies, including electricity tariffs, gas distribution and power generation strategies.

David pointed out that when electricity supply in Sabah was under the Federal Government's regulation, Sabah Electricity was included as a permanent member of the Electricity Supply and Tariff Planning, Implementation, and Delivery Committee (JPPPET), alongside other stakeholders such as the Energy Commission (ST), the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (Seda), and Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

Given the overlapping functions between MTS and JPPPET, David questioned why Sabah Electricity is not granted permanent membership in MTS?

He urged the Sabah Government to reconsider and include Sabah Electricity as a permanent member to ensure that energy-related policies and planning decisions are comprehensive and effectively address energy supply issues in Sabah.