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## PM asked to prioritise Sabah's power crisis

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Liberal Democratic Party President Datuk Chin Su Phin is greatly disappointed with recent announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim regarding plans to export Sarawak's electricity to the southern Philippines via Sabah starting next year.

"While our Prime Minister eagerly positions Malaysia as ASEAN's benevolent energy provider, Sabahans continue to suffer through frequent blackouts and power rationing. Perhaps the Prime Minister has forgotten that charity begins at home – or in this case, reliable electricity should begin in Sabah before crossing international borders," said Chin in a statement on Thursday.

"The irony is palpable. Sabah – the proposed transit route for this grand regional power scheme – cannot even keep its own lights on consistently. Our state requires at least 2,000MW of electricity to meet current demands, yet we struggle with an inadequate 1,300MW



Datuk Chin Su Phin

generation capacity. Meanwhile, the Federal Government expects us to applaud as they showcase our infrastructure as a conduit for power we desperately need ourselves," he said.

Chin added the much-touted Miri 500MW combined cycle gas turbine power plant will not be operational for approximately three years. Meanwhile, the 1500MW power plant in Bintulu, a key component of Sarawak's energy production, is only expected to be completed in 2028.

"What is Sabah supposed to do until then? Continue embracing darkness while watching Philippines-bound electricity flow through our state?"

"If Sabah can be connected to Sarawak's grid, why not send

that power to us first? Our State urgently needs an upgraded grid and more power supply. Any electricity from Sarawak should go towards fixing Sabah's shortages first, not as a favour, but as a necessity. But let's be clear; patchwork solutions won't solve the root issue. Sabah needs proper 2000MW power plants to meet demand, lower costs and support our industries," he said.

Chin asked the Prime Minister this question: How can Malaysia claim to be a regional energy leader when parts of our own country are left in the dark? Before trying to impress ASEAN, make sure all Malaysians especially Sabahans have reliable electricity first."

Chin said Sabahans are tired of being treated as an afterthought in national development priorities.

"We demand immediate action to address our power crisis before our infrastructure is used to enhance Malaysia's regional standing at our expense," he said.