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State Govt blamed for Federal failures

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KOTA KINABALU: Gagasan Rakyat Vice President Datuk Masiung Banah (pic) said the opposition is deliberately distorting facts about infrastructure issues to gain political mileage and public



sympathy ahead of the state election.

He said opposition leaders are unfairly blaming Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor for problems with roads, water and electricity supply that actually fall under Federal jurisdiction.

"The opposition is spreading hatred against the Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) government over these three issues, when they should be directing their criticism at the Federal Government," Masiung said in a statement, here, Sunday.

He accused opposition activists of twisting facts for political gain, particularly as the 17th state election approaches,

despite having faced the same challenges when they were in power.

"They are selling stories about these three major state issues being under Federal jurisdiction, yet they themselves are part of the Federal Government," he said.

Masiung pointed out that most damaged roads in Sabah are Federal roads under Putrajaya's jurisdiction, while electricity issues fall under Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB).

"When there are power outages, they blame Hajiji, but the fact is Sabah Electricity is TNB's subsidiary under Federal ownership. The State Government only holds 18 per cent shares in Sabah Electricity and has no absolute power," he said.

On water supply problems, Masiung said these stemmed from the previous State Government's decision to terminate water concession companies, supposedly to save costs.

Instead, water costs increased due to the loss of expertise from concession com-

panies, forcing the current State Government to pay RM300 million to these companies plus compensation for early contract termination.

Despite the challenges, Masiung defended Hajiji's leadership, saying he had witnessed three different state governments and the current CM's achievements surpassed previous administrations.

He said these state reserves reached RM8.08 billion in the first four years, the highest in Sabah's history, while state revenue increased by over RM7 billion, an unprecedented record.

The Kuamut Assemblyman said the GRS government is now working on bilateral cooperation with the Federal Government to address the three infrastructure issues.

Recently, a delegation of Sabah Pakatan Harapan representatives met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to request additional federal allocation to resolve the state's road, electricity and water problems.