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ENERGY SECURITY

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**LONDON:** The Asean Power Grid can strengthen cooperation among member states, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Fadillah, who is energy transition and water transformation minister, said this cooperation was important and Malaysia, as Asean chair this year, would focus on realising the grid to enhance energy security, accessibility and affordability in the region.

He said the gas pipeline in Putra Heights was shut down after the explosion on April 1, affecting the public as well as industries.

But thanks to strong ties with Thailand, the country supplied gas to Malaysia to mitigate the

impact on some 200 industries as well as consumers.

"The incident may seem localised, but the effects extended to the north because gas from the south couldn't reach there after the shutdown to prevent (the fire) from spreading.

"We are grateful to Thailand for providing assistance."

He said this at a dinner with the Malaysian diaspora in the United Kingdom at the Malaysian High Commission here on Friday.

Present were 80 guests, includ-



Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof

ing students and staff from government-linked companies and the high commission.

Also present were Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK and Northern Ireland Datuk Zakri Jaafar, Tenaga Nasional Bhd chief new energy officer Mohd Zarihi Mohd Hashim, Sarawak Energy Bhd group chief executive officer

Datuk Sharbini Suhaili and a delegation from the ministry.

Fadillah said Thailand's assistance was proof that the grid was crucial for the bloc's member

countries, especially during unforeseen events.

"For example, Vietnam, Indonesia and Laos have strong winds and can harness wind energy. But when they face wind shortages for generating electricity, other member countries can help.

"This shows that if we can co-operate regionally, it will ensure a sufficient and affordable energy supply. This is what we envision with the Asean Power Grid."

Fadillah arrived in the UK from Türkiye on Wednesday to lead the Malaysian delegation to the Summit on the Future of Energy Security at Lancaster House.

On another matter, Fadillah said the government was building

multi-purpose reservoirs to help mitigate floods and minimise losses from natural disasters.

He said these reservoirs would not only store large volumes of rainwater, but also serve as a water source during dry seasons.

"The reservoirs will allow us to reserve water for droughts, ensuring a stable supply. The stored water can also be treated and distributed for drinking, agriculture, industry or other uses."

He said flood mitigation efforts must be carried out urgently as significant climate change was affecting Malaysia's weather patterns, leading to natural disasters, including floods caused by intense rainfall. **Bernama**