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Powering up Penang

10 substations to be built throughout the state to meet demand

THE public have been urged to cooperate with Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) to prevent theft of their cables.

TNB Distribution Division (District Two Operations) senior general manager Abdul Aziz Abd Majid said stolen cables caused a huge loss to TNB and brought inconvenience to the public, such as disruption of power supply.

"Cable thefts cost thousands to millions of ringgit in losses to us, depending on the type of cable," he said at the opening of the Teluk Kumbar TNB main distribution substation in Penang yesterday.

Abdul Aziz said that TNB in Penang aimed to achieve a service performance index of lower than 65 minutes this year, which was almost equivalent to Britain's 65min to 70min, adding

that the service performance index was a universal index to indicate the performances of utility services.

"If we achieve an index lower than 65 minutes, it means that a consumer faces less than 65 minutes of electricity supply interruption a year. We also hope that in three to five years, the performance index will be lower than 60 minutes,"

he said, adding that Penang recorded 73 minutes last year.

Abdul Aziz said 10 main distribution substations, costing at least RM150mil, would be built throughout the state, including Batu Kawan, Bukit Panchor, Bandar Baru Air Itam and Jalan Kelawei in three to five years' time.

Penang TNB general manager Datuk Mohd Zahir Md Nagor said if the public sees any suspicious individuals or activities at TNB sub-stations, they should make a report to TNB immediately by calling its hotline at 15454.

"We also installed CCTV at the substations, and seek help from the police and auxiliary police to conduct patrolling," he said.

In his speech earlier, Mohd Zahir said the new Teluk Kumbar TNB substation would serve more than 10,000 individual and commercial consumers in Batu Maung, Teluk Kumbar, Gertak Sanggul and part of Balik Pulau.

"The substation with a capacity of 27 megawatts will meet the electrical demand of the areas until 2030," he said, adding that construction commenced in mid-October last year and was completed by December at a cost of RM17.3mil.

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New facility: The VIPs and media visiting the control room of the newly opened Teluk Kumbar TNB main distribution substation.