

▼18/02/09-01MST  
CNS4067  
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Mahathir-energy

PM WANTS FIRM ACTION TO OVERCOME ENERGY CRISIS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said firm action is needed to deal with the country's energy crisis, which he described as critical now, to ensure sufficient electricity supply.

"We must determine the causes of the frequent breakdowns and take action to overcome them," he told an airport press conference on arrival from his official visits to Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Cabinet yesterday directed that no efforts should be spared to overcome the problem immediately and had asked Tenaga Nasional Berhad to expedite repairs and maintenance of power generating plants.

The Prime Minister said even before this, the Cabinet had asked for reports on all power breakdowns that happened nation-wide.

"We are rather shocked by the high number of power breakdowns," he said.

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▼18/02/11-53MST  
CNS4090  
U GE 18-02 00078 EA089  
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Mahathir-energy 2 Kuala Lumpur

Asked whether the energy crisis would affect investments into the country, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was capable of tackling the problem.

"We have approved Tenaga Nasional's application to acquire new turbines.

"Their installation will take some time," he said.

The current power shortage is partly attributed to the country's rapid industrialisation causing actual energy demands to exceed Tenaga Nasional's projections.-- more

▼18/02/12-28MST  
CNS4104  
U GE 18-02 00141 EA090  
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Mahathir-energy 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Yesterday, Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said Tenaga Nasional would take delivery of two new turbines capable of generating up to 300 megawatts of electricity.

Tenaga Nasional was also negotiating to acquire eight more of such turbines.

In his briefing to the Cabinet yesterday on the current energy situation, Samy said Tenaga Nasional was discussing with an American company to install three 125-megawatt turbines.

The current energy crisis was expected to be overcome in six to nine months' time following the installation of the new turbines.

Last Monday Tenaga Nasional chairman Tan Sri Ani Arope warned of severe breakdowns in the next three months if consumers, the industries in particular, did not save energy from now.-- Bernama

▼18/02/12-53MST

CNS4217

U GE 18-02 00173 EA101

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Mahathir-energy 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (reopens item E484)

In IPOH, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib urged Tenaga Nasional to increase the capacity of the Chenderoh hydro-electricity station to between 40 and 45 megawatts from the present 30 to 35 megawatts.

This should be expedited to meet the increasing demand for electricity, he told reporters after launching the state-level Physiotherapy Week at the Ipoh General Hospital.

He said the station, the oldest in the country, had been in operation since 1933.

Ramli denied allegations that the energy crisis was due to state governments' failure to notify Tenaga Nasional of additional power requirements when opening up new industrial sites.

Tenaga Nasional was aware of the states' power needs since it had representatives on their respective industrial committees, he said.

Describing the energy crisis in Perak as a cause for concern, he said a state-level campaign would be carried out to encourage consumers to conserve electricity. -- Bernama

18/02/15-06MST