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Moggie-Power

AT LEAST A DAY TO RESTORE POWER SUPPLY, SAYS MOGGIE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said tonight it will take at least a day to restore power supply to the whole of Peninsula Malaysia.

He said, as at 8.45pm Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) had restored 100 Megawatts of power to the power station in Cameron Highlands to provide power to certain area.

Port Klang received 300MW while in Temenggor, Perak 170MW and Pasir Gudang 110MW.

"We also got some power supply from Singapore," he told reporters at the TNB headquarters here.

Moggie said the power failure at 5.17pm today resulted from "some tripping" at the transmission line at the Paka power station in Terengganu, resulting in a loss of 5,760 Megawatts of power.

He said he had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about the power failure and the steps were being taken to rectify the situation.

"We don't know yet what is the causing the breakdown," he said.

Asked whether it was due to lightning or explosion, he said there was no such indications.

He said the immediate priority was to bring the system back to normal.

"We don't know exactly when supply can be restored. We've to make sure the system are properly maintained properly... to prevent the risk of tripping again," he said.

TNB has activated its emergency programme throughout the peninsula, putting all distribution power stations on operation.

The emergency programme is activated at six TNB operational centres which include Pasir Gudang, Melaka-Port Dickson (Southern region), Connought Bridge-Port Klang-Genting Sanyen (Central Area), Cameron Highland, Lumut, Segari (Perak Region); Temenggor, Bersia and the Perai; Paka-Kenyir (Eastern Region).

"We try to start at least one plant ... at each region without connecting to the National Grid. We must make sure that transmission is stable and the load increased gradually," he said.

Referring to the blackout in 1992, Moggie said it took more than a day to fully restore the power supply and much longer to bring the system back to normal.

A study was also carried out following the in 1992 blackout. "So, we need to do a re-study. I'm going to recommend to the Cabinet that we should do a re-study of the system."

He said foreign specialists might be engaged if necessary for the purpose.

"It's regrettable that this has to happen," he said, adding that he had directed TNB management headed by Senior General Manager (Maintenance Division) Yusof Ibrahim to look into the matter and restore power back to normal. -- BERNAMA

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