

03 AUG 1996

Blackout-Scenario

JUST ONE OF THE 10,000 INSTANCES OF POWER DISTRUPTIONS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Today's power distruption is just one of the 10,000 instances of interuptions reported in the country every month.

The figure of 10,000 instances is unbelievable but it was quoted from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had voiced concern over the situation on Aug 11 last year.

As Malaysia is moving towards an industrialised nation and becoming a multi-media superhighway information technology hub, the country cannot afford to continue experiencing this situation.

How can Malaysia continue attracting foreign investors and ensuring the smooth operations of high-tech equipment without efficient power supply?

Penang's Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon had said that he was posed with some of these questions during his trade mission overseas.

The power distruption is not caused by shortage of supply as the demand in the country is still lower than supply.

The Dewan Rakyat was told last year that Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry statistics showed that the total power generated by Tenaga Nasional Berhad and independent power producers was 9,784 megawatt while peak hour demand in Peninsular Malaysia was only 6,347 MW.

The same scenario is also true in Sabah and Sarawak where their peak hour demand is much lower than the capacity generated.

The country's power reserves stood at about 54 per cent as at last year.

The question here is not the supply or demand but rather finding ways and means to reduce, or better still to eliminate, the problem.

Tenaga Nasional and other independent power producers need to find out whether it was the system or the maintenance programme which was causing the problem.

"Find out the reasons. Is the system faulty? Do we inspect the cables as frequently as we should or could it be because we don't have an inspection programme?" the Prime Minister had posed these questions to them last year.

Do Malaysians still have to enjoy "candle light" dinner 10,000 times in a month by the year 2020.? -- BERNAMA

JM AO