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ABB surprised at being dropped

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ASEA Brown Boveri (ABB) has expressed surprise at being dropped from the Bakun hydro-electric project, saying it was already close to an agreement.

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on Thursday that the Government will delay several mega projects, including Bakun, has overtaken events.

A statement issued on Thursday by ABB - the international electrical engineering company that is the main contractor for Bakun with Brazil's CBPO - said the ABB-led consortium "is of the opinion that the parties concerned are close to an agreement".

Earlier in the day, Ekran Bhd, on behalf of Bakun Hydro-Electric Corp Bhd (BHC), said despite protracted negotiations, no deal had been reached.

Ekran is the largest shareholder in BHC with a 32 per cent stake.

Meanwhile, Business Times was told by Companhia Brasileira de Projectos e Obras' Kuala Lumpur office that its managing director was away on vacation in Brazil and should not be disturbed. ABB group spokesman Michael Robertson told Business Times that ABB has taken note of what the Prime Minister has said about delaying the projects and is seeking confirmation on how this will affect the project.

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