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Anwar-Bakun

BAKUN PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, SAYS ANWAR

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today that the government will ensure that the RM15 billion Bakun hydro-electric project will not be delayed following problems between the developer and the project's main contractor.

He said that the government was studying the problem which arose between Ekran Berhad and Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) and hoped that the problem could be resolved at the negotiating table.

"We are now studying the problem...if possible, we want it to be resolved through negotiations," he told reporters after opening the Farmers, Livestock Breeders and Fishermen's Day celebrations here.

He said that the government had instructed Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie to intervene.

Moggie had been told to hold discussions with both parties to get a clear picture of their positions in efforts to resolve the problem, he said.

Anwar said that the project is still considered as essential and both parties should settle the matter as best they could.

"The government has to do something so that the project will not be delayed. We are giving our support and our attention to it," he said.

Anwar said that the government would continue to be responsible for the project and would ensure it would not be plagued by problems.

The problem arose when Ekran and the ABB consortium were not satisfied with conditions in the contract between them.

On July 31, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the government did not dismiss the possibility that the contract would be terminated if it is proven that the project is implemented not in accordance with the contract.

The project is undertaken by the Bakun Hydroelectric Company (BEHC) with Ekran holding a 32 per cent stake, the Sarawak government 19 per cent, Sarawak Electricity Supply Corporation nine per cent, the Malaysian government through Khazanah Nasional Bhd, Tenaga Nasional Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), five per cent each and the public 25 per cent. -- BERNAMA

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