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SHELVING OF BAKUN PROJECT WILL NOT AFFECT SARAWAK, SAYS TAIB

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today the postponement of the RM13.6 billion Bakun hydroelectric project will not adversely affect Sarawak.

"For me it is not a problem...we have started the project and we can proceed slowly without making it a burden to the nation," he told reporters after attending the Umno general assembly's opening session at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Bakun is not a Sarawak project, but a federal project, he said adding that in Sarawak steps were taken to ensure sufficient electricity supply for the state.

He was commenting on last night's announcement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that three major projects were being suspended due to the declining ringgit and the fall of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

The other two projects are the Kuala Lumpur Linear City and the proposed Northern Region International Airport in Kedah.

Taib said he knew the project had to be postponed as it involved the national problem, like the the fall of the share market and the declining ringgit.

On the state's electricity consumption, he said the state used a little of the 2,000 mw of power generated.

Taib said the state government would discuss with the federal government the postponement of the Bakun project in greater detail.

-- BERNAMA

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