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Tajuddin-Outage

TNB RULES OUT SABOTAGE AS CAUSE OF WEDNESDAY'S POWER OUTAGE

ALOR GAJAH, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) has ruled out sabotage as the cause of the last Wednesday's power disruption in several states in peninsular Malaysia.

Executive Chairman Datuk Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali said TNB came to the conclusion based on the situation of the national grid system at the time.

A team has been set up to investigate the incident, he told reporters after presenting loyal service awards to TNB South Zone employees here today.

There was speculation that the power breakdown could be due to sabotage as it took place as Malaysia was hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum Summit.

Tajuddin said that at 1.10pm that day, there was a disruption in the distribution system involving the 275 kv cable between Batu Gajah and northern Kuala Lumpur.

This in turn caused a breakdown at the main intake station in Slim River, Perak resulting in the system being tripped.

Soon disruption was noted in the entire system and TNB acted by imposing load shedding.

"Power supply was fully restored at 4.15pm," said Tajuddin.

He said the magnitude of the outage was 2,700 megawatts compared to 2,300 during the major breakdown on Aug 3, 1996.

Although the severity of the disruption was bigger, TNB was able to fully restore power in three hours compared to 16 hours in 1996.

Tajuddin said he informed this to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir yesterday.

Melaka was the most badly hit state with 90 per cent of its supply affected. Johor experienced a 30 per cent supply breakdown while it was 15 per cent in Kedah, Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu.

Perlis, Langkawi and Pulau Pinang (the island part) did not experience any disruption while Perak suffered only a five per cent breakdown.

-- BERNAMA

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