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Taib-Bakun

BAKUN SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL, SAYS TAIB

KUCHING, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud today welcomed the revival of the Bakun Hydro-Electric Dam Project (BHEP) in Belaga and wants it to be developed to its full potential.

"However, the final decision whether to revive the project to its original scale of 2,400 mw capacity is in the hands of the federal government," he said.

He was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the government would revive the project but had not decided on the size yet.

Earlier he opened the 8th Science and Technology Journalism Workshop organised by the Malaysian Press Institute, here.

The RM13.6 billion BHEP was one of the major infrastructure projects deferred following the 1997 economic crisis.

On equity stake in BHEP, Abdul Taib said: "I think I told the prime minister we are quite flexible about the structure of equity. The main thing for Sarawak is for Bakun to get moving and be developed to its best potential."

He also said that the benefits from the project would be higher now because all the basic infrastructure projects like river diversion tunnel, airport, jetty and resettlement exercise had been completed.

Its was reported lately that heavy lobbying for portions of the project works, both by local and international companies, had started.

Among the big players reported to have shown interest were Ekran Bhd, Gamuda Bhd, United Engineers (M) Bhd, Swiss Asea Brown Boveri, Italian Pirelli Cavi, French Alcatel and Simens Group.

-- BERNAMA

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