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MOGGIE-BAKUN

CABINET TO DISCUSS BAKUN PROJECT SOON

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 27 (Bernama) -- The cabinet is expected to discuss and make a decision on the Bakun Hydro Electric Dam project in Belaga, Sarawak soon, says Energy, Communications and Multimedia minister, Datuk Amar Leo Moggie.

He said a formal decision would have to be made whether the power should be transmitted to Semenanjung, or just for use in Sarawak and Sabah when asked to comment on the status of the Bakun project following Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Sarawak recently.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Energy Service Companies Business Development Workshop, here, today.

"The thinking now is may be we should use it purely for Sarawak and Sabah. That will save the need to reduce the cost of investment once you remove the need to transmit using submarine cables," he said.

The Bakun hydro-electric project, which was shelved during the economic downturn, was originally intended to complement the power supply to peninsular Malaysia.

The cabinet's decision, he said, would have an impact on the phasing of the project. The timing for installing the machine and turbine could be adjusted depending on the actual need of power if it was purely for use of Sarawak and Sabah only.

Currently, the power demand is more than 500 megawatts in Sarawak and 400 megawatts in Sabah.

Moggie said there was potential for demand in electricity to increase in Sabah and Sarawak as well as Brunei and Kalimantan. -- BERNAMA

ZUE KTC