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Jamaludin-Power

ENOUGH POWER SUPPLY FOR WHOLE COUNTRY, ASSURES TNB

PENANG, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) chairman Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis today assured that the utility company is capable of generating sufficient power supply for the whole country.

He said the TNB had drawn out various plans to boost electricity generating capacity at its power plants nationwide in order to meet the expected surge in demand.

This includes the "smart cooperation" between TNB and the private sector to ensure that the power supply reserve is always at the optimum level, said Jamaludin. after launching the Gelugor Power Plant combine-cycle project here.

"At present the nation's power reserve is at the optimum level of between 25 and 30 per cent," he said.

Jamaludin said the TNB needed a more efficient electricity management in order to prevent the recurrence of power problems like the one which happened in California, United States recently.

California, among the most bustling world economic centres, now has only between one to two per cent power reserve, he said.

Hence, Jamaludin said the TNB would boost its power supply from 200MW to 300MW in the future apart from upgrading its plants in order to ensure unobstructed power transmission.

On the Gelugor power plant project, he said the TNB allocated RM474 million to upgrade it into a baseload combine-cycle plant.

He said the plant which now used a 110MW gas turbine, would have a 110MW steam turbine, and this would boost power generation and transmission for Penang and the northern region of the Peninsula.

The project is due for completion end of next year.

Meanwhile at another function, Jamaludin said the TNB will build houses for its 25,000 workers nationwide through the company's "Taman TNB" scheme soon.

He said initially 3,000 of the units would be constructed nationwide and the scheme would be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in June.

"TNB workers will no longer need to buy their houses from other developers when this project is implemented," he said after opening the RM36 million TNB apartment quarters in Sungai Ara here.

He said the move was not a new business venture for the company but an effort to meet its workers' housing needs and they could obtain housing loans from the TNB in order to purchase such units.

Jamaludin said this should enable the TNB workers to improve their work performance as they would be no longer be worried and hampered by housing problems.

He said the TNB would seek the assistance of the state governments to look for suitable locations for construction of the houses.

Jamaludin also said the TNB would revamp its training programme to ensure its workers were well equipped with information technology skills and knowledge.

This exercise would enable the TNB workers to improve their skills, be it in the technical and management level, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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