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Jamaluddin: Nationwide power blackout won't recur

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Tenaga Nasional Bhd chairman Datuk Jamaluddin Jarjis today assured the company's 5.3 million consumers that there would not be a recurrence of the August 1996 national power blackout incident.

He said TNB was now more prepared to face such an eventuality.

"The blackout incident is now history. We have come a long way since then and we are confident there will not be a recurrence," he said in his speech during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to TNB today.

At 5.17pm on Aug 3, 1996, the National Grid suffered a major disturbance resulting in electricity supply to the whole of Peninsular Malaysia being disrupted for about 17 hours.

The problem was traced to a faulty 275kV circuit breaker at the Paka power station switchyard which resulted in a generation loss of 922MW from TNB Paka and YTL Paka power stations.

In November 1998, a power failure affected several States in varying degrees but TNB restored power within a few hours.

Jamaluddin said the TNB Board was encouraging its employees to pursue post-graduate education as this would benefit the company.

The board's decision to build affordable houses for its staff would also allow more employees to own homes. One third of TNB's 25,484 staff did not own houses.

The company also provides financial assistance to children of employees who had died. Those in primary schools would be given RM60 every month, while those attending secondary schools would get RM90.

They also get priority to pursue tertiary education at Universiti Tenaga Nasional if they did well in school. They would be employed by TNB upon graduation.

A special unit has also been set up to look into the welfare of the children of its retirees.

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