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TNB-VIABILITY

TNB WILL SUPPLY POWER TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF VIABILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 23 (Bernama) -- The national power utility would supply electricity to all parties involved in the relocation of industries even if the service is not economically viable.

Datuk Jamaludin Jarjis, the Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) chairman said this when asked on the company's ability to cope with the relocation programme.

The government had announced the relocation of industries in order to disperse the location of industries from the congested urban areas to the rural.

In the event that supplying to certain relocated areas were not economically viable, TNB will seek assistance from the government, he added.

He said this to reporters when approached at the Parliament today after the tabling of the Eighth Malaysia Plan (8MP) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Jamaludin also said that in supplying electricity to the nation, the issue of availability has to be accompanied by quality.

He said that TNB must always be on ready to provide top-of-the-line power infrastructure, generation, delivery and distribution.

Jamaludin noted although the downturn in the US economy was affecting everyone, the growth rate would still remain in the positive zone.

This, he added, did not mean the government would loosen its efforts in developing the nation's economic health.

Apart from the industries, he also said that TNB has had to tag along with the current trend for economic development to be oriented along 'social justice' lines.

As far as TNB was concerned, this would mean the organisation should aim to provide electricity to all, whether in the urban or the rural areas.

He said it is a direct approach to development, socially and economically, rather than hoping that by focussing on the urban areas, the resultant growth would spill over into the rural areas. -- BERNAMA

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