

# PM: Attract industries needing lots of power

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BINTULU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has given his endorsement to the setting up of mega industrial projects in Sarawak which will utilise electricity generated by the RM6bil Bakun hydro-electric dam.

He said the Government wanted to see industries which required the use of large amounts of electricity to be established in the state.

"Industries involving aluminium, steel or other materials use a lot of electricity for their production.

"By 2007, Bakun will start producing electricity for the whole of East Malaysia.

"We want to attract these big industries here since we have already spent a lot on the Bakun project," he said before opening the new RM385mil Bintulu Airport.

Dr Mahathir said many foreign groups had tried to stop the Bakun project from continuing, claiming that the 2,400MWs of power to be generated was a waste since Sabah and Sarawak would only use a combined 1,100MWs.

"We will not be influenced by them because we know we can attract big investors who will need electricity supply for their operations," he said.