

13 AUG 2002

MAHATHIR-BAKUN

DR M HOPES DECISION ON NEW CONTRACTORS FOR BAKUN DAM WILL BE MADE SOON

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he hoped that the decision on the appointment of new contractors for the Bakun hydroelectric project would be made soon.

Speaking to reporters after launching Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), here today, he said there was a need to award the contracts soon given the fact that electricity consumption had increased to a "frightening" level.

"We hope the decision will be soon because the consumption of electricity in Malaysia has shot up in one month by 900 megawatts and that's very frightening," he added.

There were talks that the results for tenders involving the building of the main dam and supply installation of electro-mechanical equipment would be announced this month.

The Bakun hydroelectric project was taken over by Minister of Finance Inc (MoF) from Bakun Hydroelectric Corp in August 1997 following the economic downturn.

It was revived in March last year and currently managed by Sarawak Hydro Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MoF Inc.

The entire Bakun dam project is estimated to cost RM9 billion and will be able to generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity. -- BERNAMA

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