

# PM: Study causes of power outage

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**LANGKAWI:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was shopping for sarongs at a bazaar near Beras Terbakar in Padang Matsirat here when the lights suddenly went off at 1pm.

It was the second blackout, which happened 40 minutes after the first one at 10am.

A trader then used a torchlight to enable the Prime Minister to pick out the sarongs he wanted to buy.

Power supply was restored 15 minutes later.

The earlier blackout lasted for more than two hours.

Asked to comment on the power outage, Dr Mahathir said the causes of power breakdowns needed to be studied to prevent them from recurring.

He said it appeared that man's knowledge about electricity was insufficient because

blackouts such as the one that hit some states yesterday occurred every once in a while.

He said blackouts had hit New York and London recently and this was Malaysia's turn.

"We must know why they occur. They should study the causes of the breakdown and prevent them from recurring," Dr Mahathir said at the airport here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit to this resort island.

He said Tenaga Nasional Bhd president and chief executive officer Datuk Pian Sukro had told him why the blackout occurred although the exact cause had not been determined.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said TNB must investigate the cause of the power outage.