

01 OCT 2003
ELECTRICITY-BREAKDOWN
NO ELEMENT OF SABOTAGE IN SEPT 1 POWER FAILURE

SHAH ALAM, Okt 1 (Bernama) -- There was no element of sabotage in the Sept 1 electricity power failure that affected five states, chairman of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), Datuk Awang Adek Hussin, said today.

"Many other factors were involved," he told reporters after inspecting works on the retaining wall being built at the Sungai Damansara river bank near here.

TNB wanted a detailed and transparent investigation on the matter and there had been no moves to hide anything that happened, he said.

He said a comprehensive report on what happened had been prepared and handed over to the government for discussion during the Cabinet meeting today.

However, he did not disclose the details of the reasons for the power breakdown which affected electricity supply for four hours in Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak and Kelantan.

On the report handed over to the government, he said they comprised three separate investigations' reports.

The first report was from the management after a request was made by the Board of Directors to investigate the reasons for the power failure, while the second was an internal audit carried out independently of the management, he said.

The final report was from a special TNB investigation unit which had been asked to look into the safety aspect and the possibility of a sabotage.

All the reports were presented to TNB's Board of Directors who had studied them in detail.

For transparency and in adherence to corporate governance, the Board had also formed a committee comprising three independent board directors to provide another report.

Awang Adek said that that report had been handed over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Minister of Energy, Communications and Multimedia Datuk Amar Leo Moggie and Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis.

He said TNB would do its best to overcome any weakness in the supply of electricity to the country and to reduce the risk of a repeat of such an occurrence like the Sept 1 incident. -- BERNAMA

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