

Peter Chin clarifies AG's Report on Energy Ministry

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The Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry has denied there were weaknesses in its financial management, as stated in the 2010 Auditor-General's Report.

Rather, external factors beyond the ministry's control could have been responsible, said the minister, Peter Chin.

Commenting for the first time on the report, he said the ministry would meet the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and make clarifications on the report, particularly the rural electrification project which had contributed to the ministry's financial weakness.

He said, although the fund (for rural electrification) was managed by his ministry, the implementation aspect was undertaken by the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.

Chin was speaking to reporters after launching the Sarawak United People's Party Transformation Plan booklet at the party headquarters in Kuching today.

He said the fund came from independent power producers and the ministry's main responsibility was to manage and approve its disbursement if there was any application for rural electrification projects from the Rural and Regional Development Ministry.

He further explained that the only similar and direct project implemented by his ministry through Tenaga Nasional Berhad was at Pulau Ketam, and it proceeded without any hiccup.

Weak financial management

On Oct 24, it was reported in the 2010 Auditor-General's Report that the financial management of seven ministries and government agencies were weak.

None apart from Chin's ministry, the others are Health, Transport and Science, Technology and Innovation ministries, Inland Revenue Board, Royal Malaysian Customs Department and the National Stadium Corporation.

Following the report, PAC chairman Azmi Khalid decided to call the aforementioned ministries and government agencies to explain their weak financial management.

He was quoted as saying that the ministries and agencies would be called to explain, based on the recommendations made by the Auditor-General's Report.

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