

'No more excuses for Sabah development project delays'

TENOM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday said there should be no more excuses for delays in the development of projects for the people of Sabah, especially pertaining to water and electricity supply, as well as the Pan Borneo Highway.

He said this needed to be emphasised as there were delayed development projects in the state, including the Ulu Padas Hydroelectric Dam here, which could provide comfortable electricity and water supplies for the people if expedited.

"This (project) is urgent and critical, so let's get it done faster and give comfort to the people," he said when officiating the ground-breaking for the dam project yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah and Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali and Sabah Energy Corporation Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Annuar Ayub.

The Ulu Padas Hydroelectric Dam was expected to be completed in 2029 at a cost of RM4 billion.

The project is a sustainable and long-term solution to solve electricity and water woes in Sabah.

Hajiji said the project will generate 187.5 megawatts, significantly contributing to Sabah's power grid with a 15 per cent increase in power supply.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim officiating the ground-breaking for the Ulu Padas Hydroelectric Dam project in Tenom yesterday.
BERNAMA PIC

"As a major contributor to the renewable energy mix, the Ulu Padas Hydroelectric Dam is also expected to meet the increased demand for electricity in Sabah upon completion.

"This is not only crucial for our energy needs, but also for the development of Sabah's oil and gas industry and the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park, driving econom-

ic growth in our state," he said after the ground-breaking here.

Hajiji also said a study was underway to explore the dam's potential to supply clean and stable water flow, reaching up to 6,000 million litres per day.

The project developer is Upper Padas Power Sdn Bhd, resulting from a partnership between the state government through Sabah

Energy Corporation Sdn Bhd and private firms Gamuda Bhd and Kerjaya Kagum Hitech JV Sdn Bhd.

Anwar said apart from the dam, the Sabah Pan Borneo Highway project was also facing delays due to contractor issues and political interference.

"These issues need to be swiftly resolved to provide the best transportation facilities for the

people. Let's be more transparent.

"The Pan Borneo Highway project has been ongoing for decades. It is nearly completed in Sarawak. The cost of RM15 billion for this project is not insubstantial. I want Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi to monitor and delegate power to expedite (the project)."