

DAP Tariff Reduction Idea Will Bankrupt Sarawak Electric Company

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KUCHING, May 12 (Bernama) -- State-owned electricity supply company, SESCO Sdn Bhd, could have suffered losses of more than RM200 million two years ago if DAP's proposal for it to reduce electricity tariff by 30 percent was implemented, said Sarawak Public Utilities Minister, Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hasan.

He said the company could have gone bankrupt and a lot of its employees would lose their jobs while the state economy would be affected by such reduction.

"Not only SESCO's profit will be wiped out, SESCO would have had a deficit and I mean actual loss of more than RM200 million in 2012 if DAP's reckless proposal had been implemented," he told the state legislative assembly sitting during his winding up speech for his ministry here Monday.

He said DAP had always propagated that Sarawak's electricity tariff was the highest in the country despite the government's repeated factual explanation that the tariff was lower than that being imposed by Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) in the peninsular since 2009 and one of the lowest in the South East Asia region.

Awang Tengah said the state government's strategy in utilising hydro resources had stabilised the electricity tariff.

He said in addition to having the lowest tariff in the country, domestic consumers in Sarawak, who consumed below 100 units per month, were also enjoying 10 sen kilowatt hour (kWh) discount.

"This is on top of the government's assistance of free electricity for those consuming RM20 and below per month," he said, adding that about 70,000 domestic consumers were benefitting from these assistance.

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