

Headline	State govt pledges clean, safe and cheap electricity supply		
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State govt pledges clean, safe and cheap electricity supply

BINTULU: The state government has pledged to develop electricity using safe, clean and cheap methods even as it expands its industrialisation process.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem said hydro-power dams had to be built in Sarawak because the facilities were the most practical method to generate energy *en masse*.

He said generating power using water was more environment friendly, compared with fossil-fuel processes.

Speaking at the opening of Murum dam in Murum, some 250km from here, Adenan said the state would also look into alternative sources of producing electricity via solar and wind sources in the remote settlements that could not be connected to the main power grid.

The opening of the 944MW facility was formalised by Head of State Tun Abdul Taib Mahmud

Taib approved the construction of the RM4bil project when he was the chief minister.

Murum dam was fully commissioned in June.

In his keynote address, Taib said the project would propel Sarawak's industrialisation.



Taib (fifth from right) unveiling the Murum dam.

“In order to attract big investments for industrialisation, we need to offer cheap, clean, safe and abundant electricity,” he said.

“At present, more than 50% of the state's electricity is generated by hydro power,” he added.

SEB chairman Datuk Amar Abdul Hamed Sepawi said Murum dam project was crucial towards meeting future electricity needs.

“We are now exporting power to West Kalimantan and soon to Sabah, Brunei and North Kalimantan,” he said.

The construction of the dam saw the employment of 2,500 workers.

“Villagers from the seven settlements will also benefit from education, healthcare and power and water supplies,” Hamed added.