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# RM265m to boost Sabah's power supply

**MAINTENANCE:** Reducing disruptions is SESB's priority

**LAILI ISMAIL**

**P**OWER disruption remains a priority for utility company Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) with many measures outlined to improve supply.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili said SESB's target of 450 minutes on the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) was achievable. He said power disruptions still occurred and the utility company could not afford to lose track of its target.

"We have to tackle the compo-

nents of electricity generation, transmission and distribution to reduce interruptions," he said after a visit to the SESB Load Despatch Centre in Penampang near here recently.

As of last month, the state SAIDI average showed a reduction to 371 minutes from 557 minutes reported in the same period last year.

Ongkili attributed the improvement to ongoing development of the state electricity supply infrastructure over the last 10 years.

Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, the Federal Government allocated RM780 million to upgrade electricity distribution, generation and transmission. For the same purpose

under the 10th Malaysian Plan, RM320 million had been set aside.

Next year, the government has allocated RM265 million to upgrade the Tenom Pangi hydro station, Kimanis transmission lines and Sandakan main switch station.

Ongkili said by next year, the electricity generation component would reach up to 385MW plus an upcoming 50MW renewable energy sources.

"These measures will meet the demand for electricity in the next four years."

Ongkili said another hydro station was being planned for Ulu Padas area to further boost power generation.