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# Poor power supply in Tenom to be thing of the past

TENOM: Poor electricity supply here would be a thing of the past after Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) successfully upgraded the Tenom Pangli Hydro project recently.

The 30-year old hydro will be able to produce an additional 9MW of electricity, an increase from 66MW to 75MW.

However, it does not guarantee the project could eliminate the problem of flooding in both Tenom and Beaufort, said SESB Managing Director Abd Razak Sallim during a briefing here recently.

The problem, he said, occurred when SESB had to open the dam gate to avoid flooding in Tenom during heavy down-pour and because of too much rubbish in the dam. This would cause Beaufort to suffer flash floods.

"This is the problem we are facing now and we are helpless about it. To address this, we would start another dam project in Ulu Tomani so that during heavy rain, we could the control the amount of water control going into Pangli Hydro for an hour," he said.

Razak also said that one of the reasons is the erosion in Sg Padas causing

the river's depth to dip from 10 metres to between 5 and 6 metres since the 80s.

"Unfortunately, that is not under our jurisdiction although we could try to help by appointing private contractors to deepen the river bed there," he said.

He also revealed that the hydro collected between one and two tonnes of rubbish during heavy rain, causing major problem and pressure to the dam.

He urged the relevant parties to avoid logging activities within 20 km from the riverbanks to avoid the logs falling into the river. Oil palm stakeholders are also advised to take care of the riverbanks, to avoid erosion, causing muds to go into the river.

"Too much mud could damage the hydro engine. I also call upon villagers in Tomani, Kemabong, Tambunan and Kenngau not to throw rubbish into the river," he said.

Also present were SESB Senior General Manager (Asset Management) Muhammad Nazri Pazil and SESB Senior General Manager (Asset Development) Abd Nasset Abd Wahid.