

Headline	Coal power plant still a cheaper alternative for sabah, says ministry		
MediaTitle	The Star		
Date	18 Sep 2013	Color	Black/white
Section	Nation	Circulation	304,904
Page No	23	Readership	1,026,812
Language	English	ArticleSize	103 cm <sup>2</sup>
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 2,273
Frequency	Daily	PR Value	RM 6,819



## Coal power plant still a cheaper alternative for Sabah, says ministry

**KOTA KINABALU:** A coal power plant still remains as a cheaper alternative for Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) although strong objections saw the scrapping of the Lahad Datu coal plant three years ago.

Energy, Green Technology and Water deputy minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said a coal power plant is a cheaper option compared with other energy sources.

"But this is still under discussion and we have not made any decisions so far," he said.

Mahdzir said it looks like a better option to have a coal power plant in Sabah to solve the never-ending power woes because not many customers will be willing to pay for higher tariffs if it is increased with the building of better power sources.

He said this after chairing a meeting with members of the newly established task force managing Sabah's power supply project planning and monitoring team yesterday.

Earlier, Mahdzir said the task force that is scheduled to meet once in two months or whenever necessary, is currently focusing on methods to overcome power supply disruption problems in the state.

He said that as a short-term measure, the Batu Sapi power plant has started generating an extra 20MW of supply while those in Kimanis – Sepanggar Bay power Corporation and SPR power projects – are expected to further generate more than 400MW of power within these two years.

"For medium-term measures, we will have the Ulu Padas Hydroelectric, Geothermal Plant in Tawau and Transmission Southern Link Sipitang generating more than 180MW of additional supply between now and 2020," Mahdzir said.