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Tajuk : Micro-hydro To Supply Electricity In Rural Areas.

Micro-hydro to supply electricity in rural areas

BENEFICIAL: Sarawak communities can get power for up to 8 hours daily

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MORE communities in the rural areas of Sarawak will get electricity supply through micro-hydro projects.

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy (CoERE) hydro

group head Dr Hushairi Zen said they would have more micro-hydro projects in such areas for the people.

"With this implementation, communities can enjoy electricity supply for up to six to eight hours daily, and there is no need for them to buy diesel for the generator," he said at the launch of the Unimas Engineering Week here yesterday.

CoERE has set up four micro-hydro projects in Nanga Sengai in Julau, Semulung Ulu in Sri Aman, Bukit Asom in Padawan, Kuching, and Bario in Miri.

RMI million has been allocated for each project, which takes one to two years to complete.

"We receive allocations from the Rural and Regional Development Ministry and the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry.

"They are for the cost of logistics as it is difficult to transport equipment and tools to build the project

in rural areas."

He also said CoERE was planning to set up more micro-hydro projects in remote areas in the state. However, there are challenges involved, such as deforestation, which can affect the communities in the area.

"We do not want villagers to be affected by deforestation. Therefore, we will go to the area and get approval from the communities to build the project.

"If they do not want the project to be built in their area, then we will not build it."