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## NO CHANGE TO POWER TARIFFS AND REBATES, SAYS ONGKILI

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### NO HIKE

# TNB TARIFFS STAY

## Govt to absorb higher fuel, power generation costs

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**T**HERE will be no change in electricity tariffs and rebates for consumers this year.

The government will absorb higher fuel and power-generation costs in Peninsular Malaysia, as well as continue subsidising rebates in Sabah and Labuan for consumers.

In the peninsula, the government has allocated RM1.303 billion to cushion the higher costs, while in Sabah and Labuan, RM468 million will be set aside for the subsidies.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili said the review by the Energy Commission for the first half of this year had found that there was an increase of 1.02 sen for every kilowatt per hour (kWh) produced.

“This was on the back of higher

gas prices of RM1.50 for one million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu) increase to RM22.70 per MMBtu, escalating coal prices in the global market and the foreign exchange impact on ringgit.

“It requires a surcharge of 1.02 sen every kWh to be imposed on

consumers, but the cabinet has decided that the hike will not be absorbed by consumers.

“At the same time, the rebate of 1.52 sen per kWh (for Peninsular Malaysia) stays — this makes the total rebate 2.54 sen per kWh in the peninsula,” he said here yesterday.

Ongkili said the decisions were made during the cabinet meeting on June 21.

He explained that the RM1.303 billion allocation was funded from the Renegotiation of Power Purchase Agreements with First Generation Independent Power Producers (PPA Saving Fund).

With that, the cabinet had agreed to maintain the average rate of basic electricity tariff in Peninsular Malaysia at 38.53 sen for every kWh.

For consumers in Sabah and Labuan, the power tariff rebate

will be maintained at 1.20 sen for every kWh for this month until the end of this year.

The average electricity tariff rate in Sabah and Labuan remains at 34.52 sen every kWh, he added.

“Overall, the adjustment of electricity tariffs under the Imbalance Cost Pass-Through Mechanism (ICPT) has enabled consumers to enjoy total rebate of RM5.403 billion in Peninsular Malaysia, and RM196.26 million in Sabah and Labuan for the period of March 2015 to December this year.”

The electricity tariff rebates are offered to all consumers of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) in the peninsula and Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd (SESB) in Sabah and Labuan, except domestic users who utilise 300kWh and below of power monthly since consumers in that category are not involved in any electricity tariff increase since January 1, 2014.

On another matter, Ongkili said a special laboratory led by the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) to

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study on reducing System Average Interruption Duration Index (Saidi) in Sabah would kickstart in two weeks.

Saidi measures the frequency of power interruptions experienced by consumers annually, where last year's target was 250 (minutes per customer) but the state only achieved 311 Saidi.

Saidi rate in Peninsular Malaysia is at 45 and Sarawak at 150.

"Stakeholders such as utilities, private sector and consumer as-

sociations can send their representatives and the lab is expected to take one month of interaction and to give ideas... so that the brains don't just come from SESB or TNB.

"The findings, of course, will be recommended to the Federal Government for policy-making, to be included in reports for infrastructure upgrading and also to utility providers like the TNB, SESB and my ministry.

He said they retained the target of 250 Saidi this year.



***Datuk Seri Dr  
Maximus  
Johnity Ongkili***