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Rebates offer relief

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CONSUMERS have welcomed the rebates on electricity usage offered by Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) via the PRIHATIN Economic Stimulus Package.

The rebates will benefit more than 7.66 million domestic consumers, who will enjoy a discount in their electricity bills of between two and 50 per cent from April 1 to Dec 31.

This is a three-month extension to the previous announcement by the government, which aimed to ease the burden of the people in light of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Consumers from all walks of life described the large reduction as a huge relief, and also expressed their gratitude for the help in easing the burden of continuing life after being affected by the outbreak.

Under the Bantuan Prihatin Elektrik, all domestic consumers will receive assistance in the form of free electricity of up to RM77 per month, equivalent to the first 300kWh electricity usage for the three months during the Movement Control Order (MCO) from April to June. Adam Husaini Yong Abdullah, 41, from Taman Bukit Zamrud, said the reduction of up to RM200 has helped him a lot in managing his family's expenses.

The salesman and a father of three children aged between nine months and five years said his average electricity consumption was around RM60 to RM80 each month.

"However, during the period of the MCO which started on March 18, the usage of electricity increased to more than double, reaching RM600 for a period of three months.

"My electricity usage definitely increased during the MCO as everyone was at home. I believe this is the same for all consumers. This was a result of the situation and should not be blamed on TNB," he added.

Housewife Rashidah Ahmad, 53, from Taman Chip Aik, expressed her gratitude for the government's concern in providing rebates for electricity consumption.

The mother of four said she was shocked when she received her electricity bill after three months of not receiving the bill due to MCO.

"The bill was nearly RM1,000 but



Adam Husaini Yong Abdullah and his family are grateful for the rebates received in their latest TNB bill. With them is TNB Negri Sembilan head of customer services Mahamad Farizan Mahamad who paid them a visit to explain about the rebates.

upon checking and carefully reading through I noted the discount. There was a savings of RM320. This discount means a lot to us because every single cent saved is a relief for my husband and myself," she said.

She said the option to pay in instalments helps to ease the burden for consumers and thanked TNB and the government for caring for the people.

The same can be said for single mothers Noraini Abdullah, 53, and Faridah Md Chan, 59.

The two, who are small business traders, suffered a loss of income following the Covid-19 outbreak and they are slowly trying to recover.

Noraini, affectionately known as Kak Mek, said the assistance in the form of electricity bill rebates was very meaningful and she hoped that similar forms of assistance will continue in the future.

"During the three-month long MCO, I could not open my business and I had no income at all. Now, during the recovery period, we are slowly trying to rebuild our business and with this help given by the government, it allows us to manage our daily expenses," she said.

"I received a rebate of RM145. As a small-time trader, I can use the money for kitchen needs such as rice, cooking oil and other items," said Kak Mek, who had just resumed her business at the end of July.

Faridah received a rebate of RM138 from the total bill of RM206.

The nasi lemak and kuih seller in Temiang said her monthly income of around RM900 a month was barely enough to make ends meet.

"However, with the help of the government, it can ease the burden," said, the mother of two.



Rashidah Ahmad says the option to pay in instalments will help to ease the burden for consumers.



Faridah Md Chan said the savings she gets from the rebates can be channelled to other expenses.



Noraini Abdullah hopes that the assistance will continue in the future for those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. PIX BY MOHD AMIN JALIL

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Bernama - MREM (Bernama - MREM 6)	3	0	RM 0
CIMB - Economic & Industry News (CIMB - Economy News)	1	0	RM 0
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Star Reacher - Coronavirus (Star Reacher - Coronavirus)	3	0	RM 0
Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) (Tenaga Nasional)	5	0	RM 0
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