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DOMESTIC USERS

RM114m to subsidise electricity surcharge

PUTRAJAYA: The government is allocating RM114 million to subsidise electricity surcharge for 81.7 per cent of domestic users from this month to December, said Science, Technology, Climate Change and Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin.

She said the allocation for the subsidy from Kumpulan Wang Industri Elektrik (KWIE) would ensure domestic users did not have to pay any increase in electricity tariffs, which would be reviewed every six months.

“So, if you look at your house electricity bill, there will be no surcharge.

“It will be zero because the government paid it. This is from our KWIE fund.

“We use the fund to cushion (the impact on) our users,” she said in response to PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli’s comment last week on the increase in electricity tariffs.

Rafizi had said the increase in electricity tariffs could kill the measures by the government to lower the cost of living.

Speaking after a townhall with energy industry players here yesterday, Yeo said she would explain how the government spent the RM114 million to subsidise domestic users next week.

“We have a RM760 million fund,

and the ministry has spent RM114 million.

“We are left with a choice on whether to use the balance to subsidise commercial use, or the next round, we can use the funds again to subsidise domestic use.”

On 1.1 million low voltage commercial users, she said they

would face minimal impact from the tariff increases and the impact of the surcharge minus the Goods and Services Tax was less than 70 sen.

“If mamak stalls say that their electricity bill increased and, therefore, the price of nasi lemak has to increase, do not believe them. You can report the price increase to the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry.”

In her keynote address earlier, Yeo said it was essential to make renewable energy affordable and accessible so that it could reach rural

areas in Sarawak.

“I have visited several places in Sarawak that do not have access to electricity.

“We have kids who do not have light at night to read and study, and that is not reasonable.

“I know that solar power and micro-hydro will be the solution for these kids, and we will bring light to rural areas.” **Bernama**

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YEO BEE YIN
Science, technology, climate change and environment minister