

Headline	Electricity Tariff Increased by 15pc in Malaysia 2014		
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Electricity Tariff Increased by 15% in Malaysia 2014

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by Caitlyn Ng

Another New Increase In The Cost Of Daily Living

An announcement made in December 2013 by the Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili has ended any further speculation regarding the hike in the electricity rates. He informed the public in a press conference at the Parliament lobby that in general, the approximate increase in the tariffs would be 15% - 17% for both Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Labuan respectively. The state of Sarawak will not be affected due to the fact that the electricity was provided by the state-run company, Sarawak Energy.

Effective 1st January 2014, the rates will take place, but with the government continuing to provide rebates till 31st December 2014 for the consumers whose electricity bills are still RM20 and below. With some studies done by MyPower Corporation (an agency that was specially set up for the purpose of driving reforms in the local electricity industry), the current average tariff rate is 33.5 sen per kWh as compared to the indicative real cost of 42 sen per kWh, which is 8.5 sen or 25.3% lower.

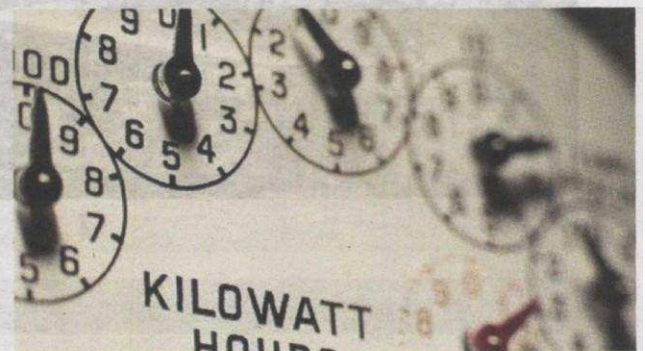
Therefore, when the increase takes place, it is expected to be up 4.99 sen more per kWh or 14.89% for Peninsular Malaysia (the current average rate is 33.54 sen/kWh to 38.53 sen/kWh) whereas for Sabah and Labuan, it is expected to be up 5.0 sen per kWh or 16.9% (the



current average rate is 29.52 sen per kWh to 34.52 sen per kWh). However, the Minister has gone on to justify the hike, of which the last revision was in June 2011, by comparing it to other neighbouring countries. For example, in Thailand and the Philippines, the tariffs are higher than that of Malaysia's but in Indonesia, it is slightly lower than ours.

What Are The Differences In Rates Like?

Domestic Tariff (kWh)	Current Rates (sen/kWh)	New 2014 Rates (sen/kWh)
For the first 200 kWh (1-200 kWh) per month	21.8	21.8
For the next 100 kWh (201-300 kWh) per month	33.4	33.4
For the next 100 kWh (301-400 kWh) per month	40.0	
For the next 100 kWh (401-500 kWh) per month	40.2	51.6
For the next 100 kWh (501-600 kWh) per month	41.6	
For the next 100 kWh (601-700 kWh) per month	42.6	
For the next 100 kWh (701-800 kWh) per month	43.7	54.6
For the next 100 kWh (801-900 kWh) per month	45.3	
For the next kWh (901 kWh onwards) per month	45.4	57.1



How Much More Would I Have to Pay?

Type Of Usage	Number Of Users (Million)	Number Of Users (Percentage)	Current Electricity Bill Usage	New Electricity Bill Usage	Difference
0 - 200	3.25	50.37	RM3.00 - RM43.60	RM3.00 - RM43.60	No Increase
201 - 300	1.31	20.30	RM43.93 - RM77.00	RM43.93 - RM77.00	No Increase
301 - 400	0.72	11.1	RM77.40 - RM117.00	RM77.52 - RM128.60	RM0.12 - RM11.60
401 - 600	0.67	10.44	RM117.40 - RM198.80	RM129.12 - RM231.80	RM11.71 - RM33.00
601 - 800	0.26	4.03	RM199.23 - RM285.10	RM232.35 - RM341.00	RM33.12 - RM55.90
801 - 1000	0.11	1.75	RM285.55 - RM375.80	RM341.55 - RM452.70	RM55.99 - RM76.90
1001 - 5000	0.13	1.98	RM376.25 - RM2,191.80	RM453.27 - RM2,736.70	RM77.02 - RM544.90
> 5000	0.002	0.03	RM2,192.25 and above	RM2,737.27 and above	RM545.02 and above

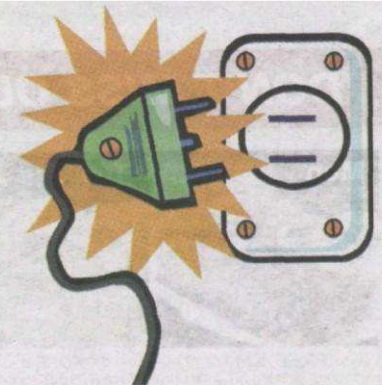
As can be seen from the table, it shows the number of users in Peninsular Malaysia and the implications to be felt from the electricity tariff rate adjustments. According to Dr Ongkili, a majority of consumers in Peninsular Malaysia as well as Sabah and Labuan will not be affected by the tariff hike, cited at 70.67% and 62% respectively. In numbers, that would be 4.56 million consumers in the peninsula and 260,000 consumers in Sabah and Labuan. This means that consumers using less than 300 kWh need not worry about their bills while the tiers which will feel the increase the most are those whose electricity usage is between 301 to 400 kWh and 401 to 600 kWh.

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How Much Is That Electrical Appliance Costing You?

In response to this decision by the government, we decided to have a little bit of fun and calculate the amount of hours that one can get out of 300 kWh from any of the top 5 most common items found in our homes. As can be seen, if you're frugal in using these appliances, then there's nothing to worry about!

Household Appliance	Standard Type	Energy Usage (Per Hour)	Number Of Hours For 300 kWh
Television	50" Liquid Crystal Display (LCD)	210 watts	~ 1429 hours
Air conditioner	Window-unit, medium	900 watts	~ 333 hours
Ceiling fan	52" on high speed	90 watts	~ 3,333 hours
Lighting	60-watt light bulb (incandescent)	60 watts	~ 5,000 hours
	CFL light bulb (60-watt equivalent)	18 watts	~ 16,667 hours
Electronics	Desktop computer and 17" monitor	150 - 340 watts	~ 882 - 2,000 hours
	Laptop computer	65 watts	~ 4,615 hours



**Caitlyn Ng is an Investigative Journalist of SaveMoney.my, an online consumer advice portal which aims to help Malaysians save money through smart (and most of the time painless) savings in their daily banking, technology, and lifestyle spending habits.*