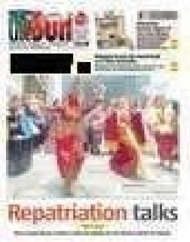
AUTHOR: Harith Kamal SECTION: NATIONAL AUDIENCE : 297,582 PAGE: 1,2 PRINTED SIZE: 169.00cm²
REGION: KL MARKET: Malaysia PHOTO: Full Color ASR: MYR 4,542 WORDS: 412
ITEM ID: DP0121973579



17 SEP, 2026

Govt to address concerns over high electricity bills

The Sun, Malaysia

Govt to address concerns over high electricity bills

PETALING JAYA: Public concerns over unexpectedly high electricity bills has prompted the government to act, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim calling a special meeting today to consider immediate measures to ease the burden on affected households.

The meeting will bring together the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, Energy Commission, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) and Finance Ministry.

Anwar said his attention was immediately focused on concerns raised by the public after his return from India and the Maldives.

"I have heard the concerns raised, and this matter must be given due attention and addressed immediately."

He said the government would maintain its targeted subsidy approach to protect the majority of domestic consumers.

He added that about 80% of domestic users consuming no more than 600 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a month remained protected and were not affected by higher tariff rates arising from increased fuel costs this year.

However, he said haze conditions and warmer weather in recent weeks had contributed to increased electricity consumption among some households, pushing their monthly usage beyond the 600kWh threshold.

Such households would consequently be subject to the Automatic Fuel Cost Adjustment (AFA).

The issue has also drawn complaints on social media from consumers who said their electricity bills had risen unusually sharply.

Anwar said the meeting would examine immediate mitigation measures to reduce the impact of higher bills on affected households.

"The Madani government will continue to ensure that every targeted subsidy measure is implemented fairly and reasonably, with the interests and wellbeing of the people remaining the priority."

TNB had previously clarified that AFA was a two-way mechanism that adjusts for changes in fuel costs and foreign exchange rates, rather than a sudden increase in electricity tariffs.

It added that consumers received AFA rebates for nine consecutive months, from August 2025 to April 2026, when global fuel costs were lower.

However, it also said a surcharge had been imposed from May following higher global fuel costs amid the crisis in the Middle East.

TNB said the AFA surcharge for September stood at 3.67 sen per kWh.

It added that the mechanism worked in both directions, with savings passed on to consumers when fuel costs fell, while higher costs were reflected through a surcharge when fuel costs increased. – *By* ***Harith Kamal***