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Offer rebates during heatwave, TNB urged

PETALING JAYA: Rebates on electricity bills should be offered to consumers during the heatwave, said a consumer group.

Malaysia Consumers Movement (MCM) president Darshan Singh Dhillon said the effects of El Nino had affected the electricity bills of many households.

"El Nino is a natural occurrence that has taken a toll on consumers' household finances in the form of high electricity bills.

"Consumers have to switch on their air-conditioning units and other air-cooling equipment for longer periods throughout the day due to the unbearable heat.

"Some consumers are experiencing a surge in their electricity bill which runs into hundreds of ringgit," Darshan said in a statement.

His comments came after Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) confirmed that the country's electricity consumption reached an all-time-high demand of 17,175MW in March.

"We call on the Government, through TNB, to provide a one-off rebate on electricity bills for this period to help domestic electricity consumers, especially the low and middle-income groups," he said, adding that the rebates could be part of TNB's corporate social responsibility towards Malaysians in need.