



23 SEP, 2026

Call for expanded electricity bill protection for Sabahans

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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KOTA KINABALU: Sabah households should receive the same expanded electricity bill protection that is rendered to TNB domestic consumers in Peninsular Malaysia, said Parti Warisan supreme council member Chen Ket Chuin.

Chen said the latest electricity relief announced for TNB users raised a serious question of fairness for Sabahans.

"According to Bernama, TNB domestic users consuming up to 800kWh per month will be protected from the Automatic Fuel Adjustment (AFA) charge, 8 per cent SST and the RM10 retail charge from 1 September to 31 December 2026.

"The relief is expected to benefit over eight million domestic users and may reduce affected bills by around 13 per cent, or up to RM47 per month. If households in Kuala Lumpur and Peninsular Malaysia are being protected because of hot weather, haze and higher electricity usage, why is there no clear equivalent protection announced for Sabah households?" he asked in a statement on Tuesday.

Chen said this question is even more important because TNB was not a stranger to Sabah's

electricity system.

"TNB is the majority shareholder of SESB, holding around 80 per cent of Sabah's electricity utility, while the Sabah government holds the remaining 20 per cent.

Therefore, the public is entitled to ask: if TNB can provide expanded electricity bill protection for consumers in Peninsular Malaysia, why is similar protection not clearly extended to Sabah consumers under SESB?"

"Sabahans cannot be treated as a separate category only when relief is concerned, but treated as part of the same corporate structure when tariff increases and operating costs are justified," he said.

Chen said this was especially unfair when Sabah households have already faced a tariff increase from February 2026, while still dealing with weaker supply reliability, frequent disruptions and long-standing basic infrastructure problems.

Chen said electricity is not a luxury, but a basic necessity for households, students, small businesses and workers.

"Sabahans should not be asked to pay more for less reliable electricity. If Peninsular

households can receive temporary protection up to 800kWh, Sabah households deserve the same level of concern and protection."

Chen added that any tariff increase must come with clear accountability on service quality.

"If the justification for higher tariffs is better supply, then the people deserve measurable improvements: fewer blackouts, faster restoration, stronger grid reliability and transparent reporting by SESB and ECoS," he said.

"Do not ask Sabahans to accept higher bills without giving them equal relief, better service and full transparency."



Chen Ket Chuin