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Paying more for power

THE Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) is concerned over the increase in consumers' electricity bills which is being highlighted in social media. Netizens are venting their anger over the sudden and sharp hike in their electricity bills, noting that the amount has doubled or tripled.

Many consumers have been posting their complaints on Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) Facebook page, TNB Careline, in the last week or so.

In response to the complaints, TNB issued an official statement on its Facebook page on April 21 to explain the possible reasons behind the sudden hike in electricity bills. It also stated that the country's electricity consumption demand reached an all-time high last month, with the highest-ever

Consumption reached an all-time high of 17,788 megawatts on April 20.

in peninsular Malaysia recorded at 17,788 megawatts (MW) on April 20.

IEM feels the hike in consumers' electricity bill is due to the increase in consumption of electricity especially through the use of air-conditioning units in the current hot weather. Consumers need to understand that the tariff rate increases according to the bands set by TNB (See chart below).

To minimise the hike in their electricity bills, IEM would like to

recommend that consumers keep the consumption down by using more energy-efficient equipment. The Electricity Regulations 1994 (Amendment 2013) enables the Energy Commission to regulate electrical appliances according to their energy performance. Such appliances must meet the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and the efficiency ratings as prescribed in the regulations.

All manufacturers and importers of products such as television sets, refrigerators, domestic fans and air-conditioners must affix the Energy Efficiency Label onto the products before they can be sold to customers.

IEM also recommends that air-conditioners be set at 24°C to 27°C. Furthermore, the combined use of

fans and air-conditioners may result in a reduced usage of air-conditioners, resulting in lower bills. It is also recommended that all household electrical products are maintained and serviced regularly to ensure optimum operation.

IEM, via its Electrical Engineering Technical Division, is willing to assist the Government and other related agencies with the necessary technical advice to improve energy efficiency of equipment and also the electricity consumption of buildings as well as to create more public awareness on energy-saving measures.

Ir. TAN YEAN CHIN
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Domestic TNB tariff under Tariff A has five bands:

For the first 200 kWh
(1 - 200 kWh)
per month

21.80sen/kWh

For the next 100 kWh
(201 - 300 kWh)
per month

33.40sen/kWh

For the next 300 kWh
(301 - 600 kWh)
per month

51.60sen/kWh

For the next 300 kWh
(601 - 900 kWh)
per month

54.60sen/kWh

For the next kWh
(901 kWh onwards)
per month

57.10sen/kWh