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15% HIKE

S Power rates up from Jan 1 following reduction in fuel subsidies

KUALA LUMPUR: Electricity rates in Peninsular Malaysia will go up by 14.98% or 4.99 sen to 38.53 sen per kWh from Jan 1. The rate for Sabah and Labuan will go up by five sen.

Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili (*pix*) announced the new rates at a press conference at the Parliament lobby yesterday, The Malaysian Insider reported.

Ongkili said the government would continue to assist consumers by providing rebates to those whose monthly electricity bill is RM20 and below until Dec 31, 2014.

He said Sarawak was not affected by the tariff review as the state's energy sector was regulated by the state enactment.

He said they managed their own affairs under the delegated power programme.

The increase was anticipated after Putrajaya announced its plans to trim fuel subsidies for power producers in the first

quarter of 2014.

Ministry secretary-general Datuk Loo Took Gee was quoted as saying that the reduction in fuel subsidies for the power sector was essential to stabilise the economy.

The current average tariff rate in Malaysia is 33.5 sen per kWh, which is 8.5 sen or 25.3% below the real cost, which is 42 sen per kWh.

Previously, MyPower Corporation - a special-purpose agency set up to drive reforms in the Malaysian electricity industry - was reported as saying that it had completed studies on several aspects of reform, including adjustments to the



tariffs. Its chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Majid had said if fuel subsidies were to be gradually removed, then the indicative tariff rate would be around 42 sen per kilowatt-hour (kWh), compared with the current subsidised rate of 33.5 sen/kWh.

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