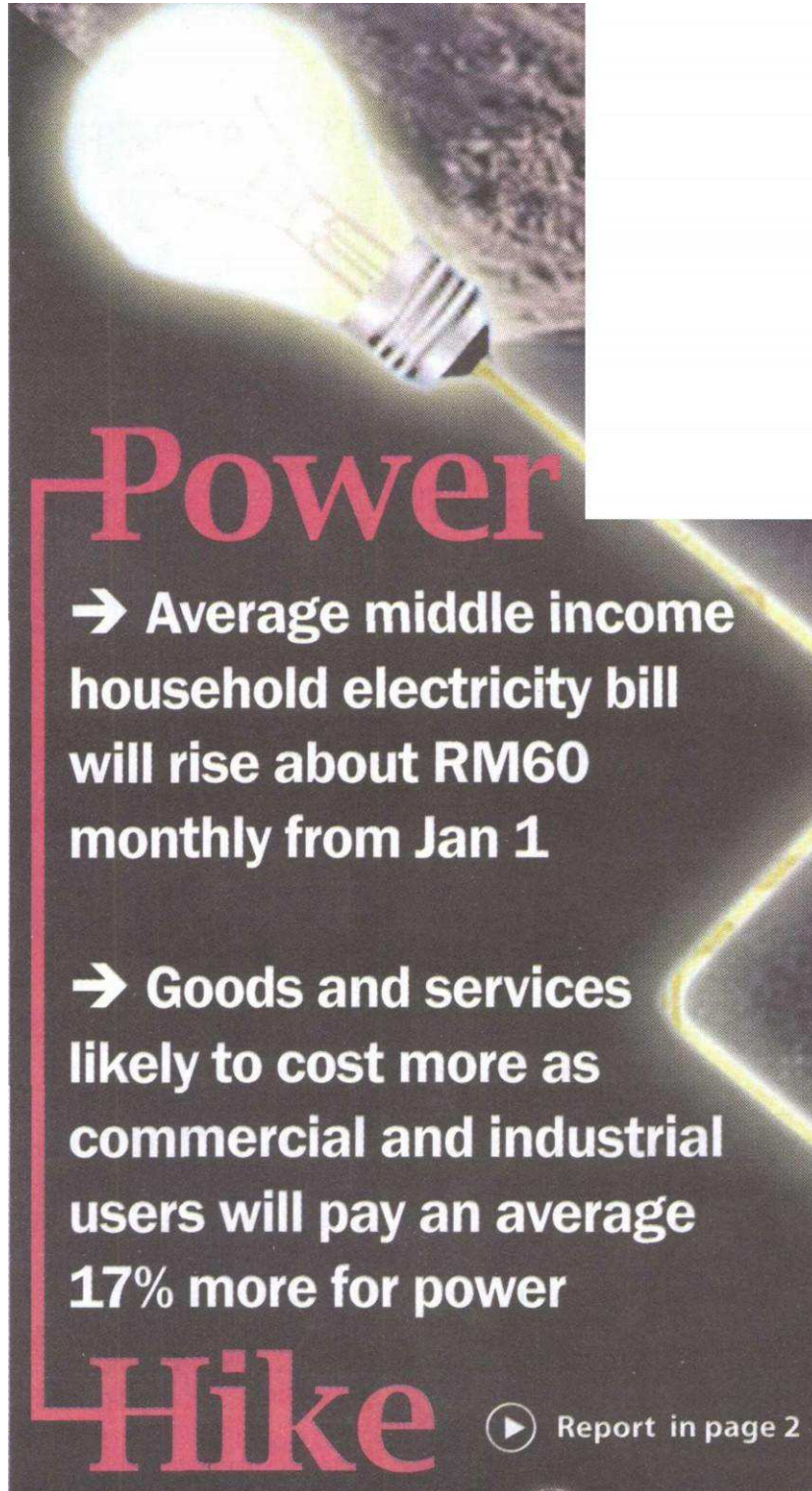


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MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	03 Dec 2013	Language	English
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Section	News	Page No	1,2
ArticleSize	674 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
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Power

- Average middle income household electricity bill will rise about RM60 monthly from Jan 1
- Goods and services likely to cost more as commercial and industrial users will pay an average 17% more for power

Hike

▶ Report in page 2

Paying more for higher

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power usage

THE tariff for electricity usage will rise an average 4.99 sen per kWh unit for usage above 300kWh per month from Jan 1, Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili announced yesterday.

The higher tariff of 38.53 sen per kWh is a 7.12 per cent increase from the current rate of 33.54 sen per kWh that took effect from June 2011 but falls short of the 42 sen per unit cost of electricity supply to consumers which energy rationalisation agency MyPower Corporation had indicated earlier.

Further, the collection from consumers for the renewable energy fund will be raised to 1.6 per cent per month from one per cent now.

Ongkili said in Parliament the new power tariff would remain at least until next year. "We take one step at a time as the people and industries need to adjust to the new rates."

But 70.67 per cent or 4.56 million of the 6.45 million domestic users in peninsular Malaysia and 62 per cent or 260,000

of the 418,000 in Sabah and Labuan, who use below 300 kWh of electricity, will not be affected by the tariff hike, he added.

Also, those using less than 91kWh per month or with a monthly bill of below RM20 will continue to enjoy free power usage as currently provided by the government.

Further, the 10 per cent discount on electricity bills currently enjoyed by government schools, institutions of higher learning, places of worship and welfare homes will be maintained.

"The increase in the electricity tariff is a reflection of the government's policy to gradually reduce subsidies, not only for the energy sector but others as well. This is also to reflect market prices to ensure greater efficiency in selected sectors and investors can also respond to actual pricing," Ongkili said.

He said the government would save about RM4 billion in subsidies for the energy sector next year with

the electricity subsidy review, which could be channelled towards improving infrastructure, schools and public facilities for the people.

In line with the tariff rise for higher usage, the average commercial rate will be raised to 47.92 sen per kWh from 41.01 sen per kWh, a 6.91 sen adjustment or 16.85 per cent.

The industrial tariff has been increased to 36.15 sen per kWh, an adjustment of 5.21 sen or 16.85 per cent—from 30.94 sen per kWh.

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