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## New electricity tariff necessary, says TNB

THE new electricity tariff to be implemented on Jan 1 next year, is part of the government's subsidy rationalisation programme for fiscal consolidation and is necessary for the long-term good of the country's economy, says Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) president and CEO Datuk Seri Azman Mohd.

He said the capital intensive utility company spent at least RM6 billion annually on capital expenditure and infrastructure maintenance.

"TNB is just a conduit. We are a collecting agent. The

tariff hike has nothing to do with us but we are getting blamed for it," he told reporters after launching the memoirs of Tan Sri Ani Arope in Bangi yesterday.

Effective Jan 1, the average electricity tariff in Peninsular Malaysia will be increased by 4.99 sen/kWh to 38.53 sen/kWh from 33.54 sen/kWh at present.

Azman said the increase will contribute about 18% to capital expenditure, equipment; maintenance and new electrical infrastructure, while 82% would be used to cover the

increase in fuel costs.

He said the tariff review is essential for TNB to build more infrastructure to ensure reliable and quality electricity supply.

The revision will not affect about 4.56 million or 70% of domestic consumers who use 300kWh and incur a monthly bill of RM77 and below per month.

The rebate from the government for over one million domestic customers with a monthly bill of RM20 or below will be maintained. — *Bernama.*