

# A bright start to the new year for power users



As many as 7.5 million domestic users will pay between 3.6% and 9.2% less for their power usage in the first half of 2021. Commercial and industrial users will enjoy rebates too. > See report on page 4

AZHAR MAHFOP/The Star

## Power rebates from Jan 1

Minister: 7.5 million users to pay less for electricity

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Domestic, commercial and industrial account holders of Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) will generally enjoy a rebate of between 3.6% and 9.2% in the first half of next year.

As many as 7.5 million domestic users will be paying between 3.6% and 9.2% less for their electricity usage during the period, said Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

For commercial users, the rebate will be between 4% and 5.2% whereas for industrial users, the reduction will be between 4.6% and 6.1%, he said at the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department yesterday.

Shamsul said the TNB account holders stand to enjoy a rebate of two sen per kilowatt hour from Jan 1 to June 30, 2021.

"The government has agreed to also maintain the TNB basic tariff average at 39.45 sen per kilowatt hour for 2021," he said.

Meanwhile, electric tariffs for the Kulim High Technology Park (KHTP) will remain at 35.70 sen per kilowatt hour for next year.

"At the same time, domestic users at KHTP will be exempted from the Imbalance Cost Pass-Through (ICPT) surcharge and enjoy the same tariff average as other domestic users from Jan 1 to June 30."



**Good news:** Shamsul explaining the new electricity tariff during a press conference at the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. — Bernama

"All non-domestic electricity users at KHTP will enjoy a reduction of 2.1 sen per kilowatt hour during the period," he said.

Shamsul said this rebate is expected to bring savings of between 3.83% and 3.89% to commercial users, and between 2.6% and 5.64% to industrial users at KHTP.



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## Groups laud decision to maintain power tariffs

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**PETALING JAYA:** Business groups and consumers are thankful that electricity tariffs are being kept at 39.45 sen per kilowatt hour (kWh), saying that it will lighten their burden as the nation continues to cope with challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

SME Association of Malaysia president Datuk Michael Kang said the decision would help small and medium enterprises get back on their feet after struggling to keep businesses afloat throughout the year.

"It would definitely be a big help for SMEs to rebuild their business after a tough year," he said.

The Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) also welcomed the decision saying it would be beneficial for households especially those in the lower income categories.

"Keeping electric tariffs at current levels will help to reduce utility costs and allow low income families to spend on other essentials," said Fomca secretary-general Datuk Paul Selva Raj.

He, however, reminded consumers to be thrifty with their electricity usage and hoped more campaigns could be organised to deter people from wasting electricity.

"More needs to be done to create awareness to promote energy efficiency and conservation," he said.

Sharan Raj, an environmentalist, said while the tariffs would be a relief to many, he also urged them to not waste the resource.

"The decision grants relief to domestic consumers who have lost their income or have had to work from home during the movement control order."

"However, with more affordable tariffs, certain households could be tempted to be wasteful and they must avoid that," said Sharan.