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Moggie-Rebate

NO REBATE FOR CONSUMERS AFFECTED BY AUG 3 BLACKOUT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Consumers affected by the peninsula-wide blackout on Aug 3 may not be compensated with a rebate.

This likelihood was conveyed in a report submitted by Tenaga Nasional Berhad to Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie who indicated today that he agreed with the recommendation.

He said the report stated that compensation for power disruption was not practised by most countries, including the United States.

"However, this is just my opinion. The Cabinet must provide guidance to Tenaga Nasional in deciding the question of payment of rebate," he said in response to questions from reporters as to when consumers affected by the eight-hour blackout would be given the rebate.

Earlier, he opened a dialogue between the Electricity and Gas Supply department (JBE&G) and Tenaga Nasional held in conjunction with the JBE&E's Quality Day.

The matter of non-compensation practised by other countries would be included in the proposal paper to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration, Moggie said.

The paper was being prepared and might be discussed by the Cabinet at its meeting in two or three weeks, he added.

Tenaga Nasional had attributed the blackout to a fault in a component of the 275 kV circuit breaker at the Paka station in Terengganu.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, when commenting on the incident on Aug 21, said the government felt that Tenaga Nasional should compensate the affected consumers.

Moggie also said that Tenaga Nasional had succeeded in reducing the disruptions caused by low voltage in the peninsula from about 27,000 in 1994/95 to about 9,000 in 1995/96.

Earlier, in his speech, Moggie said the incidence of accidents and fires due to electrical faults was under control following the high safety standard set by the JBE&G.

"Only 37 cases were reported up to September this year compared with 47 cases for the whole of 1995 and 106 for 1994," he said.

He said safety when performing electrical works should not be compromised and Tenaga Nasional and JBE&G, as the main players in the power industry, must strive to achieve zero electrical accident.

He said JBE&G would introduce several staff efficiency programmes next year to help achieve the country's objective to have sufficient, guaranteed and clean electricity. -- BERNAMA

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