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Mahathir-TNB

PM SAYS GOVERNMENT TO STUDY NO-REBATE RECOMMENDATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government will study carefully Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) recommendation not to give rebates to consumers to compensate for their losses suffered during the Aug 3 peninsula-wide blackout.

The Prime Minister said the Cabinet would have to study the matter very carefully, especially on its implications because the government has a very big share in TNB.

"It seems that in other countries, they do not pay. So if we do this thing then we will be going against the normal practice, and there may be very serious implications if we do that.

"So I think I cannot give any opinion now, but the only thing I can say is that we will study carefully. We may agree with TNB and on the other hand we may not," he told reporters after opening the Malaysia Design Conference and Exhibition here.

He was asked to comment on the TNB recommendation on the rebate issue in its report submitted to Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Leo Moggie recently.

Among other things, the report stated that compensation for power disruption was not practised by most countries, including the United States.

Asked to elaborate on his answer, Dr Mahathir said: "You must allow us to have an open mind over this. We cannot be committed to anything."

On whether there should be some form of compensation to consumers affected by the blackout, he said: "I do not know what was the practice in other countries. I thought that it is fair that it should be a rebate but apparently other countries said it's not fair."

He said the no-rebate recommendation might be discussed by the Cabinet at its meeting on Wednesday. -- BERNAMA

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