

26 AUG 1996

TNB-Rebate

TNB PREPARES REBATE FORMULA TO CONSUMERS

PETALING JAYA, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) has prepared a formula to give a rebate on electricity charges to consumers should compensation for losses they suffered in the Aug 3 peninsula-wide blackout be approved by the government.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Nuraizah Abdul Hamid said the formula covers rebate for various categories of consumers and whether it should be given on a single bill or staggered.

The formula was discussed by TNB last week after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the national power utility should compensate consumers for their losses, she told Bernama after opening the Ericsson Regional Office for Messaging Centre Services near here today.

The final approval on the rebate was up to the government, she added.

Nuraizah, who sits on the TNB board, said the company would be submitting the formula to Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Leo Moggie but she did not say when.

Apart from the rebate formula, she said TNB would also be submitting a report on the proposed compensation's financial implications to the company. She did not give any figure.

Last Thursday, TNB said it had held a meeting to look into the question of compensation which would be referred to its major shareholders.

TNB's major shareholders are the Minister of Finance Incorporated and Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the government's investment arm.

TNB services five categories of consumers -- domestic, commercial, industrial, mining and public lighting.

The Aug 3 blackout, the second since 1992, left consumers throughout the peninsula without electricity for more than 12 hours and caused losses estimated to total tens of millions of ringgit, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, the Putra World Trade Centre management company wants to claim losses of RM150,000 from TNB over the blackout.

N.S. Pichoo, the chief executive officer of Putrade Property Management Sdn Bhd, said the claim is for refunds made to clients who cancelled their functions there, including the MIC golden jubilee dinner, and the cost of food spoiled during the outage.

"Because of the blackout, we could not provide the services agreed upon and had to refund a percentage to our customers as compensation. Now I'm asking for the same compensation from TNB," he told Bernama.

Pichoo said Putrade had learnt a lesson from the blackout and would secure power backup to prevent spoilage of food in the event of another power breakdown.

Before this, PWTC had power backup only for security and fire emergency systems and a few lights. -- BERNAMA

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