

No hike in power tariffs for domestic consumers

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PUTRAJAYA: The government has no plan to raise electricity tariffs for domestic consumers, to avoid burdening the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said any increase would involve small and medium enterprises, agricultural companies and food producers, despite the fact that the country would lose nearly RM30 billion a year.

"If it is raised, it will only be for multinational companies as the current tariff is too low for them and such a subsidy should not be given to large companies making huge profits.

"As for the people (domestic consumers), the government has

➤ Any increase will only involve small and medium enterprises, agricultural companies and food producers, says Anwar

no plan whatsoever to raise the electricity tariff," he said after chairing the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

He added that the increase in the tariff rate for multinational companies would only be made in a gradual and reasonable manner to ensure it would not affect their operations and projections, Bernama reported.

Anwar said details on the decision would be announced by

Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

On flood management preparations, Anwar said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi will be leaving for Kelantan today to identify early measures that can be taken in preparation to face the floods.

"He will identify the problems and make early preparations. Our approach is different, we don't

wait for the floods to happen, we make preparations before it happens."

On Tuesday, Ahmad Zahid said the government would take proactive steps in flood disaster management, including activating temporary evacuation centres earlier.

He said with the cooperation of the Meteorological Department, areas where the amount of rainfall is high and expected to be hit by floods would be focused on.

Anwar also said the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) has been instructed to be more proactive in dealing with any situation involving farmers due to the problem of irregularities in marketing infrastructure.

"Last year, you heard about the huge problem affecting Cameron Highlands farmers that led to them disposing their produce, having no buyers, facing difficulties in transportation etc. So, Fama has to undertake that measure," he added.

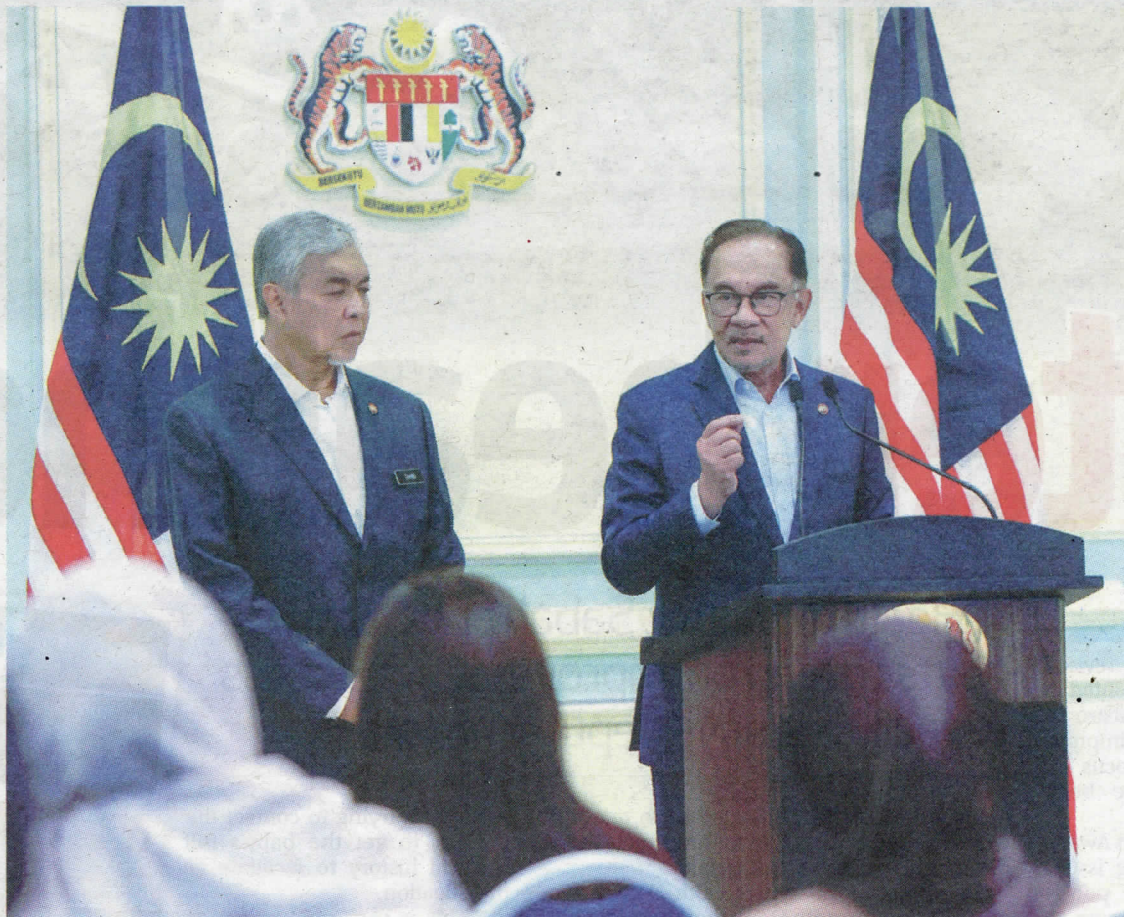
On a separate matter, Anwar said the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah has not taken a salary since Covid-19 hit the country as His Majesty was concerned with the economic situation that has taken a toll on the livelihood of the people.

"I want to inform you that His Majesty has rejected taking a salary since the start of Covid-19, much earlier than me. I think it would be good if we make this clear."

Anwar had previously stressed that he would not take any salary, both as prime minister and finance minister, in order to restore public trust, particularly in the unity government led by him.

He was appointed the 10th prime minister on Nov 24.

All members of his Cabinet have also agreed to a 20% pay cut as a show of solidarity with the people and the difficult times they are experiencing.



Anwar, accompanied by Ahmad Zahid, addressing the media in Putrajaya yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC