



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim answering a question at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. He said the government will not increase the electricity tariff, except for the T20 group. BERNAMA PIC

HIGH-INCOME EARNERS

NO HAJ, ELECTRICITY SUBSIDIES FOR T20

Padu database will allow govt to better manage, distribute subsidies to those in need, says PM

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
AND QISTINA SALLEHUDDIN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

HIGH-INCOME earners, or those in the T20 category, will no longer qualify for subsidies,

such as those for electricity and haj, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said the implementation of the household socioeconomic database, Pangkalan Data Utama (Padu), by the year-end will enable the government to better coordinate and streamline the distribution of subsidies to those who need it.

“To curb leakages, the government initiated the targeted electricity tariff scheme in the first half of 2023 to maintain the tariff for households, small- and medium-sized enterprises and agricultural producers. “So, we will not increase the electricity tariff, except for the T20 group, and this will be coordinated by the Padu system.”

He said this during the question-and-answer session at the Dewan Rakyat.

On May 15, Anwar said households with high electricity consumption would no longer enjoy government subsidies. These households, he said, should pay the actual cost of power consumption.

In March, Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad said the government had allocated RM10.76 billion to cover electricity bill subsidies for domestic and non-domestic consumers in the low-voltage category from Jan 1 to June 30 this year.

He said the government had also implemented a targeted approach for haj subsidies for the B40 group, where the cost borne by the B40 group would not be increased.

“Subsidies have stopped for the T20 group.”

Anwar’s statement comes on the heels of an announcement by Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli, who last Friday said the government would study a new strategy for implementing targeted RON95 fuel subsidies based on households’ net disposable income from data gathered from Padu.

The approach, he said, represents a transition in the government’s socioeconomic policy, moving away from income-based

categorisations.

Anwar refuted opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin’s (Perikatan Nasional-Larut) claim that the government’s “new and drastic” policies were haphazard in nature.

Hamzah said there was doubt about the country’s economic plans following complaints over the confusion of tenders for government projects from businesses and the corporate sector.

Anwar said Malaysia’s continued ability to draw major foreign investments was proof of its clear economic policies. Malaysia, he said, had demonstrated strong economic performance and had seen an increase in high-value investments in the first quarter of 2021.

“If our policies are confusing, how can our economic growth exceed that of Indonesia, Vietnam and China? If they are confusing, it would not have been possible for investments to come (in).

“(And) within just a month of our trip back from China, Geely Holding Group Co Ltd came here (to Malaysia) and asked us to expedite the Automotive High-Technology Valley project in Tanjung Malim.”

He said Malaysia’s economic policies and political stability had attracted foreign investors.

“This shows that clear policies (by the government) have attracted them. So I don’t see how this is a problem.”