

# PM: POWER TARIFF HIKE AFFECTS ONLY THE RICH

New rates will not jeopardise livelihoods of the majority of the people, says Anwar

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said any increase in electricity tariffs will not jeopardise the livelihoods of the majority.

Responding to a proposal from Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) on a new tariff set to be implemented in July next year, he said the government would not allow an increase that affects the people.

"We do not allow electricity tariff hikes that impact the public. Any increase, as in the past, will only affect the upper class that I describe as the super-rich, or industries recording significant profits.

"The majority of the public will not be impacted by electricity



*Electricity pylons near the Penang Bridge. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says rising costs must not affect the position of the majority of the people. NSTP  
PIC BY MIKAIL ONG*

tariff increases, even though I understand costs are rising.

"Although costs are rising, they must not affect the position of the majority of the people. This is a matter of policy.

"I understand the need for an increase, but it cannot involve additional costs for the majority of the people," he said.

He was speaking after Friday prayers at Masjid Al-Hana in Kuah, Langkawi, yesterday.

He said the matter had been referred to Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, who is also deputy prime minister.

Anwar said a clarification on the matter would be issued by Fadillah and TNB.

On Thursday, TNB said it was proposing a new rate for next year with a base tariff of 45.62 sen/kWh for Peninsular Malaysia under Regulatory Period 4, which is to be implemented on July 1.

Under Regulatory Period 3 between 2022 and 2024, the base tariff was set at 39.95 sen/kWh.

It said any tariff discrepancies from January to June will be funded through the Electricity Industry Fund.

The current tariff schedule had been in place since 2014.