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RELIEF OVER REDUCED ELECTRICITY BILLS

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THE Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package has brought relief to many consumers who have been able to save on their monthly electricity bills.

The discounts provided under the package which reduces bills for electricity consumption, ranging from two to 50 per cent from April 1 to Dec 31 this year, has benefited millions of Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) consumers.

Many described the discounts as a relief as it helps reduce their monthly utility bills.

For lawyer, Mohammad Shafiee Afendi, 37, his average monthly TNB bill would be from RM100 to RM150, but his electricity consumption increased since the Movement Control Order (MCO) came into effect in March.

Shafiee said he expected the spike in electricity bills as he was working from home and spent more time indoors compared with the period before MCO.

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MOHAMMAD SHAFIEE



Mohammad Shafiee and Nurul Aimi are thankful for their discounted electricity bills.

"I saved almost RM30 in my recent bills and also in the previous months due to the government's initiative, which began in April and will continue until December.

"I can use the money to pay for my other utilities, such as water and sewerage bills. It's also useful because each consumer is given discounts based on their electricity consumption rate," he said.

Before this, the government, together with TNB, announced the Bantuan Prihatin Elektrik (BPE) subsidy as an additional assistance package, which provided free electricity consumption of up to RM231 to some 7.66 million domestic consumers between April and June during the MCO period.

Following that, the Economic Stimulus Discount was extended until the end of this year using the

same formula, which was to provide a rebate of between two and 50 per cent based on electricity consumption.

Shafiee said the government had taken a rational approach by offering a blanket discount without restricting the benefits to certain groups or based on household income only.

"At the same time, it does not sideline the B40 group since everyone is affected by Covid-19.

"Furthermore now with the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO), more people are required to stay at home to curb the spread of Covid-19," he said.

Meanwhile, housewife Nurul Aimi Mohd Zainul Abidin, 34, said her electricity bill did not see any drastic increase as she had been staying at home almost every day even before the pandemic.

"Based on the electricity consumption rate, the bill is still within RM100 monthly since we are still using the same electrical appliances.

"Maybe most of our appliances are energy-saving ones, and my husband and I also limit our usage of gadgets to avoid disrupting our children's education," she said.

The mother of three children hopes that the discounts would be extended if the pandemic contin-

WAGE SUBSIDY PROGRAMME

Allocation:

RM2.4B

► Rate:
RM600
per month for
each worker



► To benefit:

160,000 employers
1.3 million workers



Applications open:

Oct 1, 2020 - Dec 31, 2020

Conditions

- Company has a minimum of 10 employees
- 50 per cent drop in revenue for 2020 year
- Monthly per cent of monthly revenue of employees to be less than 200

ues to ease the financial burden of consumers.

"We also need to be more disciplined and avoid wasting electricity because that will eventually affect our bills," she said.

KitaPrihatin