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Increase in electricity charges questioned

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PUTRAJAYA was yesterday asked to delay the possible toll hikes this year to help alleviate the financial burden on the people.

China Press said in a commentary that people are now hoping for the government to delay the toll rate hikes.

"As of yesterday, people are now forced to pay more for electricity following Tenaga Nasional Berhad's (TNB) raising of electricity tariff rates by 14.98 per cent," the commentary said.

"No one welcomes the raise of prices although it is an inevitable trend in the world."

It said the government should ensure the increases are reasonable to prevent the public from being burdened.

"Hence, it is important for the government to find an effective formula that can ensure a balance between maintaining the national income while preventing people from being burdened at the same time."

The commentary highlighted that Barisan Nasional (BN) won the 13th general elec-

tion with a minority of the popular votes, and that was due to people losing trust in them.

"In contrast, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) made a lot of promises to the people."

It said the same theory also applies to the electricity hikes.

"The Singapore government announced that electricity tariffs for the first three months will decrease by an average of 1.7 per cent, or 0.43 cent per kWh. The reduction is due to the lower cost of natural gas used for electricity generation."

"People are wondering why our electricity tariffs are being increased when other countries are seeing a decrease in their charges," the commentary asked, adding that it would be hard for the government to justify the increase.

"We understand it is crucial for the government to implement its subsidy rationalisation initiative, but it must be done in a manner that does not affect the quality of life."