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# ELECTRICITY TARIFF HIKE: TNB should invest in green technology

By Megat Shah Rizal Noor Ikhsan, Kuala Lumpur

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### China's Coal Demand

EnergyAndCapital.com/Coal\_Industry  
China, U.S., India & South Africa: Why These 3 Coal Stocks Will Soar

THE recent announcement to increase the electricity tariff is disappointing. It looks as if Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) has again taken the easy way out by increasing the rates to cover its costs. Since it is a monopoly, I react with unhappiness whenever TNB announces its annual results in billions of ringgit. My reaction is: "So what?"

It is not as if consumers have a choice in the matter; we cannot opt for a cheaper supplier. Therefore, TNB's announcements mean little to me because not much effort has been made to achieve its successes. Having rising stars with high pay as chief executive officers also makes no sense when I have not seen any contribution from TNB towards nation-building.

I have not read nor seen any blueprint announced to control its costs or to vary the type of supply to produce electricity, especially from cleaner sources.

Instead, they are addicted to fossil fuel, be it petroleum, gas or coal.

This puts them in a difficult situation as they are affected by the volatility of market prices.

I would like to see serious attempts being made to produce electricity using waste products, which in turn helps to manage our waste and landfill issues. I don't see that happening.

With the wide spaces we have, I have not seen any suggestions to harness wind as another solution.

There are so many other solutions that do not involve nuclear energy that may possibly be cheaper alternatives. Instead, TNB has taken the

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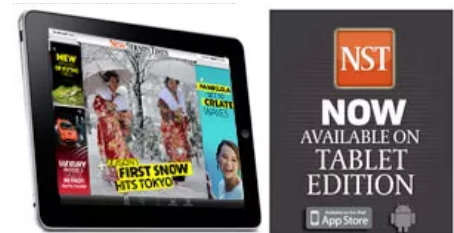
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easiest way out by just increasing the tariff, contributing to an increase in inflation, production costs and cost of living.



Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili announcing the hike in electricity tariff in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

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