Villagers want quick assistance from hydropower developer

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PHONSANVONGSAY

Electricite du Laos (EDL) will today report on its company’s bi-annual review meeting, which concluded yesterday in Vientiane.

The meeting was being held to review company accomplishments over the first six months of the year and establish plans for the remainder of the year, according to an EDL official. Participants will today discuss company regulations, policies, funding, electricity development and investment projects such as transmission line installations and power plants construction projects.

Some projects are still operating and others have been successfully completed. Company officials from head office worldwide will report on current challenges and successes.

The export and import of electricity will be discussed at the gathering.

The meeting will also comment on the volume of electricity production, desalting electricity development projects in each part of the country and report on the previous company income, debts and expenditure.

EDL, a state-owned enterprise, has the objective of implementing electricity development in Laos by providing electricity and related services to consumers by the most economical means, but subject to certain requirements.

As an autonomous state-owned enterprise it is required to be profitable, self-financing and meet loan agreements and performance targets set by the state.

EDL’s business activities are seeking electrical energy sources, generating, transmitting, selling and purchasing electricity both inside and outside the country.

It invests and participates in joint venture investments for the generation, transmission and sale of electricity, and also produces equipment relating to the electrical industry.

Public transport service charge unchanged

EKAPHONE PHOUTHONESEY

The nationwide public transport service charge will remain unchanged despite decreasing fuel prices, according to a public transport official.

The government last week lowered the retail price of fuel in the country by more than 200 kip per litre, causing widespread public debate about the impact lower fuel prices should have on the cost of other goods in the market.

The Transport Department’s Public Transport Management Division Head, Tony Phommas outstanding, yesterday confirmed the drop in fuel prices in Laos would have no impact on the public transport service charge, saying local fuel prices had not dropped enough to warrant a price reduction.

“We will adjust the service charge once local fuel prices move out of the 10,000 kip to 13,000 kip per litre range,” he said.

“We will lower the public transport service charge if local fuel prices go below 10,000 kip per litre,” he explained.

The government had specific rules regarding raising or lowering the public transport service charge

and confirmed that a rate adjustment would not take place immediately after decreases or increases in fuel prices due fears it would create chaos in the public service sector.

The government last week sent up the fuel prices on local fuel prices in the country, but EDL officials said the public transport service charge would not be affected by this.

The public transport service charge will remain unchanged immediately even if the government reduces fuel prices.

The government would be busy constantly approving the changes,” said the official, who asked not to be named.

A senior economist Dr Liber said if the drop in fuel prices in local markets were unsteady and had been fluctuating over past weeks.

“If we changed the public transport service charge immediately in accordance with fuel prices, we would have a lot of work to do and the government would be busy constantly approving the changes,” said the official, who asked not to be named.

Senior economist Dr Liber said if the drop in fuel prices in local markets were unsteady and had been fluctuating over past weeks.

“Take our case, we are keeping a close watch on the price of local fuel prices, but we are sure people get the benefits of lower fuel prices,” he said.

Domestic Transport Department General Director, Sanitsouk Vilaychareun, said lower fuel prices in the local market had already driven down the price of agricultural goods in local markets, especially vegetables.

“We have been keeping a close watch over the price of fuel prices, adding that saving fuel should not be a signal for people to consume less fuel,” he said.

Domestic Transport Department General Director, Sanitsouk Vilaychareun, said lower fuel prices in the local market had already driven down the price of agricultural goods in local markets, especially vegetables.

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