

Tunis city electricity rates

TUNIS -- Tunisia has raised the prices of domestic electricity and gas, a government official said on Friday, the latest in a series of price hikes in a country whose public finances are under increasing strain.

The North Africa country, is seeking to reach a new loan deal with the International Monetary Fund in exchange for unpopular reforms that include lifting energy and food subsidies and freezing wages.

Sami Ben Hmida, a commercial director in STEG state-owned Electricity and Gas Company said the rise in electricity prices was 12% for those whose consumption reaches 200 kilowatt-hours per month.

Tunisia will also raise the price of some foods including milk, eggs and poultry, the agriculture minister said earlier this week, following protests by farmers against a jump in animal feed barley prices due to the war in Ukraine.

Unions warn the wave of repeated price increases and a fall in purchasing power amid a severe economic crisis could lead to protests the authorities may not be able to control.

President Kais Saied, who has consolidated his one-man rule since seizing executive power last summer and dissolving parliament to rule by decree, is facing frequent political protests to push him to return to a democratic path.

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