

Sarawak PKR sees 'rings' behind diesel shortage

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The federal government should thoroughly investigate the shortage of diesel in Sarawak and identify the factors behind this.

Apart from the re-sale of subsidised diesel, the other possibility is that some in authority are involved with syndicates to make profits, claimed Sarawak PKR chairperson Baru Bian.

The diesel shortage, although a persistent problem in the state, has been critical over the past week or so, he told a press conference.

Hudud forum Baru Bian, the Ba'Kelalan assembly representative, said: "I just came back from Lawas (where I) was told that you cannot (even) buy a gallon of diesel. They will not sell it to you.

"They told me that some people are selling (subsidised diesel) through some outlets ... (The supply) was deemed to have been delivered, but in fact the diesel was sold to somebody else.

"It is common knowledge that some diesel was even sold to Indonesians across the border. This has happened in my area."

He said those involved with syndicate are making profits from two transactions - from the subsidy and then from re-sale of subsidised diesel.

Bian did not fully agree with the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry's claim that the shortage is due to hoarding.

"Hoarding may be one of the factors, (but) I believe there are other factors. There is a need for the ministry to go deeper into the shortage," he said.

azlan "I (also) don't think the answer to the shortage is to increase supply ... members of syndicates (would be) very happy because, when you increase the allocation, they will make more profits. This is the truth of the matter.

"The most important thing is effective enforcement. Don't just make statements, but do it ... We want to see the investigation reports, as the shortage affects all of us."

With effect from yesterday, oil companies have increased the supply of diesel to affected areas, according to the ministry's Sarawak director Wan Ahmad Uzir Wan Sulaiman.

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