

## **Soi Lek: Pakatan's price hike gripes hurting my ears**

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Former MCA president Dr Chua Soi Lek has accused Pakatan Rakyat of hypocrisy in its criticisms against government policies which has led to a rise in the prices of essential goods.

In a posting on his new blog today, Chua said that the cost of some services in Pakatan-administered states such as business licenses, water tariff, property tax and car parks had increased.

But while doing so, the states of Selangor and Penang had also given its lawmakers and state cabinet members a hefty pay rise.

"So if they are supporting the rally against price hike then it is something that does not defies the logic while they themselves do not walk the talk.

"They have lost their credibility and morale standing in this issue and when start to talk it causes ear ache to me," wrote Chua in the maiden post on his new blog today.

In the case of Selangor, Chua claimed that the cost of a business license has gone up as high as 400 percent while some lawmakers had their salaries go up by as much as 373 percent.

Meanwhile, Chua, a former federal health minister, said that slashing of subsidies were necessary to ensure sustainable.

"If we look at our national budget then we will know that RM 49 billion is allocated for the development of our country while on the other hand RM 44 billion alone is allocated for subsidy.

"Such rate cannot continue to go on as it is not sustainable in the long run," he said.

He said that presently, the government had already created safety nets for the low and middle income earners, but hoped that the government plug leakages reported in the Auditor-General's report.

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