

**Gov't: Fuel prices still among the lowest**  
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The government today announced subsidy reductions of five sen per litre for RON 95 petrol and diesel, five sen per kg for LPG and 20 sen per kg for sugar effective tomorrow.

With the reduction, RON95 petrol will cost RM1.90 per litre, diesel RM1.80 per litre, LPG RM1.90 per kg and sugar RM2.10 per kg.

The subsidy rationalisation announcement was made in a joint statement by the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry and the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) of the Prime Minister's Department.

The statement said that despite the increase, Malaysia's retail prices for all the items remained lower than those in neighbouring countries, such as Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

For example, the price per litre for RON95 petrol is RM2.46 in Indonesia, RM4.36 in Singapore and RM4.25 in Thailand, while the price per litre for diesel is RM2.50 in Indonesia, RM3.18 in Singapore and RM2.96 in Thailand.

LPG costs RM2 per kg in Indonesia, RM6.42 in Singapore and RM1.93 in Thailand while sugar is priced at RM3.50 per kg in Indonesia, RM3.80 in Singapore and RM2.80 in Thailand.

The first step towards the subsidy rationalisation programme was made on July 16 when subsidies for RON95 petrol and diesel were reduced by five sen per litre, for LPG by 10 sen per kg, and for sugar by 25 sen per kg.

The statement said the subsidy rationalisation was necessary as the government recognised that it must continue to manage its fiscal position by enhancing revenue and, at the same time, reducing expenditure.

**GNP to reach US\$15,000 by 2020**

The Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) aimed to increase the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita to reach US\$15,000 by the year 2020, it said.

To achieve this, it added, the GDP must grow at least at six percent per annum and this would allow government revenue to increase via tax collection.

The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) attempted to address issues in the six National Key Result Areas (NKRAs), amongst which poverty, rural basic infrastructure and education clearly had an impact on the bottom 40 percent of the population, it said.

For example, it said, since January this year, the government had built 538km of rural roads, 260 per cent more than the previous year, opened 1,358 pre-school classes benefiting 54,569 children, and reduced the number of hardcore poor households by 55 per cent.

The government was taking the welfare of the poor people as a key priority under the GTP, the statement said.

- Bernama

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