

**Govt Cannot Guarantee Petrol, Diesel Prices To Remain
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BERA -- Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government cannot guarantee that the prices of petrol, diesel and gas would remain the same if global crude oil prices continue to rise.

Ismail said the government is expected to fork out RM17 billion in oil subsidy following an increase in the price of crude oil in the global market.

"We cannot assure that the prices will remain the same, including RON 95 petrol, diesel and gas. The prices will be reviewed by a subsidy rationalization committee every six months. Last year, the subsidy for oil was RM10.3 billion," he told reporters after opening the Bera Division's Pemuda, Wanita and Puteri Umno meetings here today.

He said the price of petrol and diesel would be decided after the committee's meeting in June.

"If the government continues to bear the additional subsidy, the government's deficit will increase," he said.

(Bernama)

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