

AIDILFITRI CELEBRATION

PM UNVEILS GOODIES TO USHER IN RAYA

Extra public holiday, toll-free rides for 4 days and discount on traffic summonses

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AS promised, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced a slew of goodies, from an additional public holiday to toll-free highway rides in conjunction with this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations.

To allow the people to make travel plans and preparations, Anwar said, the unity government under his leadership had decided to provide an extra public holiday, either this Friday or Monday, depending on the date on which the first day of Syawal, which marks Aidilfitri, falls.

Anwar said the government decided to grant the additional public holiday according to Section 8 of the Holidays Act 1951, which is applicable to states in the Peninsula and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

"In the event the first day of Syawal falls on Friday, the government will therefore fix April 24 on Monday as an extra public holiday. However, if Aidilfitri falls on Saturday, which, at the moment, is the likeliest possibility, the government will declare April 21 (Friday) as an additional public holiday."

As for Sabah and Sarawak, Anwar said the state governments could declare the date an additional public holiday according



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announcing the government's incentives for Hari Raya Aidilfitri at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

to their respective public holiday ordinances.

Anwar made the announcement at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya. Present were Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Seri Salahuddin Ayub and Local Development Minister Nga Kor Ming.

Anwar also announced toll exemptions for four days starting today until Friday, as well as on Sunday, for Malaysians returning home to celebrate Aidilfitri.

He said the toll-free Rahmah initiative for all classes of vehicles was applicable on 33 highways across the country.

"This initiative will help reduce the cost of paying toll for people who are returning to their hometowns to celebrate Aidilfitri. It will also make it easier for them to plan their journey."

Anwar said the police would be offering discounts for traffic

summonses starting this Friday until May 21. The summonses, he said, involved all traffic offences committed last year and in previous years.

"The people will only have to pay RM50 for each of the summonses. The special rate, however, is not applicable for traffic summonses issued this year."

Anwar, nevertheless, stressed the police were committed to ensuring that road safety was at an optimum level, especially during the festive season.

He also announced that the Prisons Department would be rolling out a Licensed Prisoner Release (OBB) programme in conjunction with the Licensed Prisoner Release Ihsan Madani programme ahead of Aidilfitri.

Anwar said the OBB would see more than 1,000 prisoners released under licence during Ramadan and Syawal.