

Use of fleet cards for diesel subsidy to be expanded to check leakages

PUTRAJAYA: The use of fleet cards for diesel subsidy will be expanded as efforts are made to prevent leakages, smuggling and illegal sales, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said there was a serious need to plug leakages, adding that the surge in diesel usage compared to the number of diesel-type vehicles indicate that there are leakages and that the issue must be addressed.

Anwar pointed out the use of diesel in 2022 was 8.4 billion litres, a surge of 37.7% from the 6.1 billion litres used in 2019.

“On the other hand, the number of registered vehicles using diesel has only increased 2.4%, from 2.08 million in 2019 to 2.13 million in 2022.

“The surge in diesel usage compared to the number of diesel-usage vehicles indicates that there are leakages that need to be tackled,” he told a press conference after chairing the National Economic Action Council (MTEN) meeting yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the decision to expand the use of fleet cards would benefit nine sectors, including general cargo lorries, refrigerated trucks, water tanks, panel and window vans.

“By expanding fleet card usage, we can go to the sectors that deserve it. Fleet cards will allow effective monitoring, as part of efforts to combat smuggling and leakages,” he said.

In 2022, the government spent RM13bil on diesel subsidies.



One for the album: Anwar and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail arriving at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration with the Ministry of Finance staff in Putrajaya. - AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

Anwar also said a main database that would house socio-economic information of households would be developed, to ensure better distribution of target subsidies and aid.

The Prime Minister said the database, to be known as PADU, was also to ensure a more systematic distribution of assistance, to avoid anyone who is eligible from not receiving it.

The Statistics Department will be responsible for collecting all the necessary information for the database.

This includes the number of households, household income, location, number of vehicles, record of assistance received from government departments and other information to determine disposable income of eligible households.

“Whatever data that we have now is not fully complete and is not coordinated. Once the PADU database is up and running, it will be more comprehensive and will use real-time data,” he said.

The database is expected to be fully functional by January next year.