

# Anwar the only leader willing to reform fuel subsidy system, says Nga

**TELUK INTAN:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is the only leader willing to go out on a limb to reform the fuel subsidy system, said Nga Kor Ming.

The housing and local government minister said the Madani administration could not allow the "leakage" of subsidies to foreigners, estimated at RM4 billion annually, to continue.

"It is important that this subsidy targeting programme is implemented to correct past mistakes.

"We do not want these leakages. Every government comes and goes. Everyone talks, but no

one dares to act.

"In the end, only Anwar is willing to undertake this crucial reform."

Nga said this after officiating at an assistance programme for Tamil school students in the Teluk Intan parliamentary constituency at the Sri Vellai Vinayagar Temple Hall here yesterday.

He handed over RM240,000 to 240 students from 11 schools.

The government's annual subsidy bill for RON95 petrol, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas and electricity was more than RM80 billion, he said.

However, 3.8 million foreigners, who do not pay taxes, also benefit from these subsidies, he added.

This issue is compounded by the smuggling of diesel, which costs the country about RM2 billion a year, he said.

"RM2 billion is the equivalent

of Perak's budget for two years going into the pockets of syndicates.

"Once this matter is clarified, I believe rational citizens will understand and accept the government's decision," the prime minister said.

On Tuesday, Anwar announced

that the government would adjust the provision of diesel subsidies, with the implementation not involving Sabah and Sarawak.

He said the exemption was given because most families in Sabah and Sarawak used diesel for their vehicles.



*Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming (back row, third from right) officiating at an assistance programme for Tamil schoolchildren in Teluk Intan yesterday. With him is Pasir Bedamar assemblyman Woo Kah Leong (back row, second from right). BERNAMA PIC*