

DIESEL SUBSIDIES REFORM

'WHY IS HAMZAH DEFENDING THE RICH AND FOREIGNERS?'

Locals affected by diesel reform will be given government assistance, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has hit back at opposition leader Datuk Seri Hamzah Zain-

udin for criticising his announcement on the rationalisation of diesel subsidies.

Anwar said the rationalisation of subsidies was aimed at the wealthy and foreigners, while locals who were affected would be provided government assistance.

"Why is he busy defending the rich and foreigners? Will PN continue to provide subsidies to the rich and foreigners (if they come to power)?"

"That is what will make the people uneasy, if subsidies continue to be given to the rich and foreigners."

He questioned if PN had any

policy to rationalise subsidies.

On Tuesday, Anwar announced that the cabinet had agreed to implement targeted diesel subsidies in Peninsular Malaysia.

For now, targeted subsidies will not involve Sabah and Sarawak. Subsidised diesel is priced at RM2.15 per litre.

To avoid price hikes, 10 types of public transport vehicles and 23 types of goods transport vehicles will still get diesel subsidies.

Hamzah accused Anwar of causing unease among the public with the announcement.

Hamzah said Anwar failed to address the "elephant in the room", which is when the subsidies would be removed.

Anwar said typically, the prime minister would announce a policy and ministers would provide details.

"This has always been the case. He has been a minister, why is he asking questions like that?"