

Anwar: Govt not imposing new taxes, just fairer subsidies

MELAKA: The government does not intend to introduce new taxation instruments, but rather aims to implement a more equitable targeted subsidy system that meets the needs of the people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said low-income earners, such as fishermen, smallholders and taxi drivers were exempted from paying tax in the recent announcement on targeted diesel subsidies.

“I do not wish to introduce new taxation instruments that burden the people.

“The issue with (current) diesel subsidies is the significant leakage, costing billions of ringgit... the wealthy and large industries still benefit from these subsidies.

“The implementation of targeted subsidies will affect (only) the wealthy, large industries and foreign nationals.

“Fishermen, smallholders, Grab and taxi drivers will all be exempted... potentially excluding nearly a million citizens from paying the diesel tax.”

Anwar said this at the Madani Convention here.

Present was Chief Minister Datuk Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh.

He wanted all ministries and departments to adopt the Madani slogan as a dynamic concept, aligning with technological advancements, digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI) in the nation’s development efforts.

He also mentioned the Islamic Economic Conference, set to take place from May 28 to 29 in Kuala Lumpur, which would consider the principles of syariah (*maqasid syariah*) in a broader and comprehensive scope.

Anwar said: “This economic conference will examine the Islamic economy from the wider aspects of *maqasid*, meaning how public participation, social inequality improvement, use of opportunities and digital AI technology exploration are involved.

“This conference will bring a new thinking that I consider as Madani, as it discusses societal issues in all fields,” he said.

Ab Rauf said 10 resolutions were discussed at the two-day convention.

They included acknowledging that the Madani initiative could resolve issues affecting the ummah, meeting current and future needs, and fulfilling the potential of the people, state and country. **Bernama**