

RM8 BILLION EXPECTED

'SAVINGS WILL GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE'

Subsidy revamp for RON95 fuel will not affect 85pc of Malaysians, says prime minister

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SAVINGS from the government's move to implement targeted subsidies for RON95 petrol in the middle of next year will be used for programmes aimed at improving the welfare and livelihoods of the people, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

In his speech at the Madani Rakyat 2024 Sayangi Sabah here yesterday, the prime minister said the government was expected to save RM8 billion from the move as 40 per cent of the RON95 petrol subsidy was being enjoyed by foreigners and the ultra-wealthy.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, reiterated that 85 per cent of the population would not be affected by the implementation of targeted subsidies.

"Currently, the petrol subsidy is being enjoyed by foreigners, people without identity cards, and even the wealthy — those with five bungalows and profits of RM10 million.

"So, the wealthiest T15 group, combined with foreigners, use 40 per cent of the subsidised petrol, amounting to RM8 billion a year.

"In other words, the government isn't being smart. That's why we need to consider how to change this. Change it for whom? Not for the ordinary people. So, don't worry, the petrol subsidy will remain for 85 per cent of the population.

"This means that the majority will continue to enjoy the RM2.05 per litre price, while the wealthy and foreigners will have to pay a bit more according to market prices," he said.

Anwar added that prices of petrol in Malaysia were the cheapest compared with Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the



The majority of Malaysians will continue to enjoy the RM2.05 per litre price for RON95 petrol in the middle of next year, whereas the wealthy and foreigners will have to pay according to market prices. NSTP PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

Philippines and even Saudi Arabia.

"In Saudi Arabia, the price per litre is RM2.65, compared with Malaysia's RM2.05.

"Currently, we provide subsidies, but how much? In one year, if we don't switch (to targeted subsidies), it will cost us RM20 billion," he said.

Anwar later hit back at certain parties questioning the government's plan to implement targeted subsidy.

"If you are an elected representative championing the welfare of the people in Malaysia, you should support efforts aimed, at lessening the burden of the needy," he said.

Anwar said he wanted the grassroots, especially the poor and hardcore poor, to benefit from the various initiatives provided in the 2025 Budget.

Among the key initiatives of the budget were the Rahmah Cash Aid (STR) and Sumbangan Asas

Rahmah (SARA), which had been increased to RM13 billion in the 2025 Budget compared with RM10 billion previously.

Anwar said the SARA initiative had been expanded to 700,000 people, while the STR aid was distributed to nine million recipients, including those in the B40 and M40 income categories.

"District officers, village heads, make sure that no people from the poor miss out on this opportunity. I've already instructed that no one should be left out," he said.

At the event, Anwar launched a new government initiative through the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry to combat manipulation and leakages, known as *Kita Gempur*.

The *Kita Gempur* initiative is a strategic move to build a mass effort to address manipulation in business activities and leakages involving controlled and subsidised goods.

Anwar open to feedback on budget issues

KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given his assurance that he will listen and address any issues that arise from the budget.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the 2025 Budget he tabled on Friday was designed to benefit everyone.

"If there are issues and problems, we can negotiate, discuss, and interact with one another. I will listen," he said at the launch of the Sabah International Blue Economy Conference here.

Anwar said the budget included a development allocation of RM6.7 billion for Sabah, which he said was the highest ever on record.

"Is it able to resolve ongoing issues of underdeveloped schools and hospitals? No, but it is a bold attempt, and we will work on it.

"But please appreciate that in yesterday's budget, the allocation for Sabah is the highest ever recorded in the country.

"Sabah is a large state with many areas still considered underdeveloped, and we have spent substantial funds on the Pan Borneo project. It is almost complete in Sarawak, but needs a bit more push in Sabah."

He said Sabahans could work together despite their diversity.

"We don't want any losses due to delays, wastage, commissions or corruption. That's your responsibility now to make it work," he added.