

# 'ANWAR AWARE OF PUBLIC CONCERNS'

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Upcoming announcement will show govt is serious in tackling cost of living issue, says Pasir Gudang MP

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's upcoming announcement of an "extraordinary tribute" to Malaysians is expected to send a strong signal that the Madani government is serious about tackling the rising cost of living.

Pasir Gudang member of parliament and PKR veteran Hassan Abdul Karim said Anwar was fully aware of public concerns, particularly those of the Bottom 40 (B40) group, who were hardest hit by the rising cost of living.

"I believe that the prime minister is mindful of the people's anxiety over possible policy changes, such as the removal of RON95 fuel subsidy, higher electricity tariffs and the increase in the Sales and Service Tax on certain goods and services," he said.

Hassan, who sits on the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Domestic Trade, Entrepreneurship, Cost of Living and Agriculture, said the issue would remain in the spotlight



Hassan Abdul Karim

ahead of the protest scheduled for July 26 by the opposition and several non-governmental organisations.

"The government must show the people that it is serious about addressing these bread-and-butter issues, especially for those who are struggling to make ends meet," he said.

Hassan added that the prime minister was likely to make the announcement in Parliament.

"Anwar understands the significance of Parliament as the proper platform for major announcements.

"With the Dewan Rakyat sitting resuming tomorrow, I believe that the announcement will come either during the Prime



The rationalisation of the RON95 subsidy will raise the people's anxiety due to the rising cost of living, says Pasir Gudang member of parliament Hassan Abdul Karim. NSTP FILE PIC

Minister's Question Time or via a Prime Minister's Statement.

"The opposition will certainly raise the issue of the cost of living, and this will allow for a healthy debate — a positive development for Malaysia's democratic process."

Yesterday, Anwar said the highly anticipated announcement, which he described as an "ex-

traordinary tribute" to Malaysians, particularly in relation to easing the burden of living costs, was likely to be made today or tomorrow.

The prime minister said he needed a little more time to finalise the details, with the Finance Ministry working to ensure the measures were thorough and impactful.