

18 MILLION TO GAIN FROM INITIATIVES

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RON95 fuel price cut, RM100 aid among measures announced by PM to ease people's burden

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A WIDE-ranging package of initiatives aimed at easing the people's burden and bolstering national growth was unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday, in what he described as an "extraordinary tribute" to Malaysians.

Among the key announcements was the reduction in the RON95 petrol price to RM1.99 per litre under the upcoming fuel subsidy rationalisation.

Anwar said this would benefit around 18 million Malaysian motorists, including youths and gig economy workers.

He gave the assurance that, similar to the restructured electricity tariff system introduced this month, the majority of citizens would continue to enjoy lower costs.

Also announced was a one-off RM100 assistance under the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) programme for all citizens aged 18 and above.

The aid, credited via MyKad, can be used from Aug 31 to Dec 31 at more than 4,100 outlets nationwide, including major supermarkets and retail chains.

With an allocation of RM2 billion, this unprecedented initiative is expected to benefit 22 million Malaysians.

To further support the people, toll hikes for 10 highways scheduled this year will be deferred, with the government absorbing over RM500 million in costs.

Affected routes include the Senai-Desaru Expressway, East Coast Expressway Phase 2, South Klang Valley Expressway, Butterworth Outer Ring Road and the KL-Putrajaya Expressway.

Meanwhile, the Madani Rahmah Sales programme will also receive a RM300 million boost, with its allocation doubled to



Food stall traders (from right) Nurul Hashida Sayuti, 39, Nurul Azzah Sayuti, 35, and Nurul Azwa Sayuti, 37, watching the live broadcast of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement, in Shah Alam yesterday. NSTP PIC BY FAIZ ANUAR

RM600 million.

The additional funds will expand the programme's reach to all 600 state constituencies and introduce more product options, helping Malaysians to cope with the rising cost of living.

In a move to mark national unity, Anwar declared Monday, Sept 15, as an additional public holiday for Malaysia Day.

The holiday, he said, was meant to foster stronger family ties and celebrate the unique formation of the nation.

Anwar said these initiatives were made possible due to Malaysia's continued economic strength.

The country posted a 4.4 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter of the year, with the second quarter projected at 4.5 per cent.

Malaysia also rose 11 spots to 23rd in the 2025 World Competitiveness Index, with approved investments reaching a record RM384 billion in 2024.

The ringgit has appreciated by more than five per cent against the US dollar this year, while unemployment has dropped to 3.0 per cent, the lowest in more than a decade. More than 250,000 jobs were created between 2023 and 2024.

The minimum wage was raised to RM1,700 in February, with full enforcement from Aug 1.

Additionally, 153,000 employees in government-linked companies now earn a living wage of RM3,100.

"These efforts reflect our shared commitment to a fairer and more prosperous future," said Anwar.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS BY DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM



1 RON95 PETROL PRICE REDUCED

■ RM1.99 per litre when fuel subsidy rationalisation begins

2 EXTRA PUBLIC HOLIDAY

■ Sept 15, 2025 declared a holiday for Malaysia Day

3 RM100 VIA MYKAD UNDER SARA PROGRAMME

■ One-off aid for all Malaysians aged 18 and above
■ Usage: Aug 31 to Dec 31 at over 4,100 outlets

4 MADANI RAHMAH SALES BOOST

■ Programme's allocation doubled to RM600 million

5 TOLL HIKES DEFERRED

■ Rates remain unchanged for 10 highways in 2025