



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim presenting the Anti-Drug Inspiration Award to Tay Bian How during the National Anti-Drugs 2025 celebration at Dataran Darulaman, Jitra, yesterday. With him are Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (right) and Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor. BERNAMA PIC

APPRECIATION PACKAGE

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'NOT EASY TO CUT FUEL PRICE EVEN BY 6 SEN'

PM: Don't trivialise initiative as it comes with wider financial implications for the country

M HIFZUDDIN IKHSAN
JITRA
news@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar said it is not easy for the government to reduce the price of RON95 petrol even by six sen as it has to take into account the wider financial implications for the country.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said as a result, he needed several days to assess and study the matter before announcing it to the public on Wednesday.

"We reduced the price of petrol to RM1.99.

"Yes, countries like Thailand and Singapore had done so earlier, but ours is even lower. This is for all Malaysians.

"It's okay if you're not grateful or you disagree with it, but it's not easy.

"That's why we needed several days to do the calculations, so do not trivialise this.

"They say it's just six sen, but

they're not listening to the explanation," he said.

Anwar was speaking at the National Anti-Drugs 2025 celebration at Dataran Darulaman here yesterday, which was attended by around 6,000 people.

The prime minister said some quarters had also questioned why the government did not offer subsidies to foreigners.

This was because they did not pay tax to the government, he said.

"I find it odd when the opposition asks why are we burdening foreigners, as they contribute to the country too.

"I struggle to think of any country in the world where foreigners are accorded the same treatment as citizens," he added.

Anwar said some questioned the one-off RM100 aid under the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) programme to all Malaysians aged 18 and above.

"The RM100 is an additional allocation from the initial RM13 billion to RM15 billion. Husbands and wives will each get RM100, and if they have children who are above 18, they get it too."

At the same time, he said the deferment of the toll hike meant that the government would assume financial implications of up to RM500 million.

"Based on the agreement, toll rates must go up this year. I didn't make that agreement. The ones

(administrations) before did that.

"If the government does not want to (increase the toll rates), then it must pay. But this government does not want to burden the people.

"If you don't feel like saying thank you, at the very least don't condemn me," he said.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that Anwar urged enforcement agencies, particularly those operating along the borders, to enhance their effectiveness in fighting smuggling, especially drug trafficking.

Anwar said he acknowledged the challenges in addressing the issue due to Malaysia's vast air, land and sea borders, and that close cooperation among all agencies was crucial to prevent border incursions.

"Even if they (the agencies) are efficient, it's not easy because the borders are vast.

"However, all enforcement agencies must improve their efficiency to prevent leakages in enforcement management, such as the National Anti-Drugs Agency, the Narcotics Department and the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency... it is a huge responsibility to safeguard our people.

"If they need funding, facilities or equipment to address this drug problem, we will try to provide it," he said.