



Good work: Anwar presenting the Anti-Drug Icon award to Wan Aminuddin Wan Ismail at the launch of the 2025 National Anti-Drug Day celebration, organised by the National Anti-Drug Agency at Dataran Darulaman in Jitra. Looking on are (from left) Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail and National Anti-Drug Agency director-general Datuk Ruslin Jusoh. — Bernama

'It was not an easy decision'

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PM: Thorough evaluation done before slashing RON95 price

JITRA: Slashing the price of RON95 petrol, even if it is only by six sen was not an easy decision to make as the government needs to take into account the financial implications for the country, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said this was why he had to take a few more days to ensure a thorough evaluation before announcing the RON95 price reduction from RM2.05 to RM1.99 per litre.

"Yes, countries like Thailand and Singapore may have adjusted their prices earlier, but ours is still lower.

"(You) want to disagree, it's okay, but please know this was not an easy decision. That's why it took days to finalise.

"Don't belittle this effort. Some say it's just a six-sen difference, but they didn't hear the full explanation," he said at the National Anti-Drug Day celebration yesterday.

Anwar also addressed criticisms of the government's deci-

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sion not to extend fuel subsidies to foreign nationals, reiterating that such support is meant solely for Malaysians, as foreigners do not pay taxes to the government.

"I am puzzled with the Opposition's statement that we are burdening foreigners, claiming they too contribute to the country.

"I don't understand, in what part of the world are foreigners treated the same as citizens?" he said, Bernama reported.

The Prime Minister also defended the one-off RM100 cash aid under the Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (Sara) programme for

all Malaysians aged 18 and above.

"This RM100 aid stems from an increased government allocation, from RM13bil to RM15bil.

"A husband and wife will each receive RM100, and if they have children aged 18 and above, they will receive it too," he said.

Anwar also highlighted the government's decision to defer toll rate hikes, acknowledging that the move carries a financial cost of up to RM500mil to the federal budget.

"According to the agreement, toll rates should have gone up this year. I wasn't the one who

signed that deal; the previous government did.

"If we don't raise the toll, the government must compensate the concessionaires. We chose not to raise it to avoid burdening the people. So even if there's no 'thank you', at least don't condemn us," he said.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister announced a series of measures aimed at easing the cost of living.

At the event, the Prime Minister expressed concern over the number of individuals involved in drug abuse, particularly among the Malay youth.

"The numbers are terrifying – loss of productivity, collapse of spirit. When it comes to drugs, we have to act.

"Hundreds of thousands of our young people are involved, especially among the poor and those with weak educational backgrounds.

"Their future is in ruins because of drugs," he said.