

'Fuel subsidy is for Malaysians, not foreigners'

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MUAR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim stressed that the recently announced subsidised price of RON95 petrol at RM1.99 per litre is exclusively for Malaysians, while foreigners will be charged the current market rate.

He said the move is crucial to ensure that the government's substantial subsidies are enjoyed solely by Malaysian citizens, in line with the Madani government's commitment to social justice.

"RON95 petrol is sold to Malaysians at RM1.99 per litre. Foreigners and tourists, including those from Singapore, will have to pay RM2.50 or RM2.60 per litre.

"This is not a form of discrimination, but the policy of a sovereign nation committed to protecting the welfare of its people," he said in his speech when launching the National Month and Fly the Jalur Gemilang 2025 campaign at Dataran Tanjung Emas here yesterday.

Also present were Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Onn Hafiz Ghazi, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar and Information Department director-general Julina Johan.

Anwar said the targeted subsidy initiative is expected to reduce government expenditure, which has long been enjoyed by foreigners who

neither pay taxes nor contribute directly to the national economy.

He also criticised the remarks of an opposition leader from Johor who allegedly questioned the decision to limit the fuel subsidy to Malaysian citizens.

"An opposition leader asked why foreigners have to pay more. I don't understand. I am the prime minister of Malaysia.

"Foreigners do not pay taxes like Malaysians. In which country do non-citizens receive subsidies equal to those given to locals? My primary responsibility is to look after the welfare of Malaysians," he said.

Anwar also stressed that fuel prices in

Malaysia are not raised arbitrarily, adding that despite fiscal pressures, the government has kept prices among the lowest in the region.

"If you don't believe me, just look at the fuel prices in Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia, all of which are much higher. We are still able to provide (RON95) at RM1.99 per litre. That is my responsibility," he said.

He added that savings from the subsidy rationalisation would be channelled towards strengthening welfare programmes, rural development and gradually increasing the minimum wage, including in the public sector and government-linked companies.

- Bernama