

# PM: T15 to be exempted only when system is more robust

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Any RON95 fuel subsidy exemption for the Top 15 per cent (T15) income group will be implemented once the current system is more robust, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

“When defining the T15 group, if we set the income threshold at RM13,000 or RM20,000 a month, it would still burden the upper-middle class,” he said.

“We could raise it to around RM50,000 a month, but that income group is very small. From an enforcement standpoint, the cost of implementing such a measure would be substantial.

“For now, we will proceed with the current system. When it becomes more robust, we can consider introducing it in the future, targeting only those who are truly high-income or genuinely wealthy.”

Anwar was responding to a sup-

plementary question by Syerleena Abdul Rashid (PH-Bukit Bendera), who had asked why the T15 group also benefited from the Budi Madani RON95 (Budi95) targeted fuel subsidy.

Anwar said the Budi95 initiative was expected to help the government save at least RM2.5 billion annually.

He said the government had achieved significant savings thanks to several rationalisation programmes.

These, he added, included RM1 billion each from the float of chicken and egg prices, RM6 billion from the restructuring of electricity tariffs and RM5 billion through the Budi Madani diesel programme, mainly from curbing smuggling and leakages.

“In my view, these savings are sufficient for the government to implement the measures carefully so as not to burden the people.”