

PM briefs King on pressing issues

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PETALING JAYA: His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, granted an audience to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Istana Bukit Tunku, Kuala Lumpur yesterday where he was briefed on several pressing national issues.

One of the main issues raised was the RON95 petrol subsidy under the Budi95 initiative launched by the Finance Ministry. Under the initiative, the price of RON95 has been subsidised to RM1.99 per litre. The government expects savings of between RM2.5 billion and RM4 billion per year through the removal of blanket subsidies. Officials said the initiative is intended not only to shield vulnerable groups from rising living costs but also to free up national resources for healthcare, education and public transport.

Budi95 will be rolled out in phases, starting with 300,000 members of the armed forces and police this Saturday. On Sunday it will be extended to B40 recipients currently receiving the Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah cash aid.

By Tuesday next week (Sept 30) the subsidy will cover about 16 million Malaysians aged 16 and above who hold a valid MyKad and driving licence.

Under Budi95, eligible individuals are entitled to a monthly quota of up to 300 litres of subsidised RON95 petrol. E-hailing drivers, however, are exempt from this cap and may apply for a larger quota. Malaysians can now check their eligibility for the fuel subsidy via the official Budi95 portal.

Motorists can also opt to pay for the subsidised fuel using the Touch 'n Go eWallet. By completing the electronic-Know Your Customer (eKYC) verification in the app, users can buy fuel through a dedicated Budi95 function without presenting their MyKad at the pump.

The system lets motorists select a station, enter pump details and amount, generate a QR code and receive automatic refunds for any unused balance.

Anwar also updated His Majesty on preparations for the upcoming 47th Asean Summit, which will be hosted in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The summit is expected to gather Southeast Asian leaders for discussions on regional cooperation, economic growth and pressing geopolitical challenges facing the Asean bloc.