

Opposition Wants Stringent Checks On Sale Of Subsidy Goods In Sarawak
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KUCHING, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- In all urgency, the abuse of subsidised commodity in Sarawak must be curbed, the State Legislative Assembly sitting here was told Wednesday.

Lack of supervision has resulted in even civil servants receiving diesel subsidy while those with no boat or even a net, obtain diesel subsidies to sell.

Highlighting the rampant abuse of subsidy, Sarawak PKR chief Baru Bian (PKR-Ba'Kelalan) said the failure to nab those abusing the subsidy would lead to the poor in urban and rural areas to suffer financially, while unscrupulous agents or businessmen fill up their coffers.

"It is public knowledge in my constituency, for example, that people with no boat or net are getting diesel subsidies to sell. There are even some civil servants who are allocated such privileges.

"There was an incident where the wife of a village chief, having been asked to purchase sugar from an appointed agent, was denied the item, with a remark that the same was not available for sale, but to be sold across the border to Kalimantan Indonesia," he said.

Bian said this at the debate of the second reading of the Supply (2012) Bill or Budget 2012 at the assembly sitting.

He said, with the current abuse of subsidy being quite rampant, enforcement authorities should act in all urgency, investigate and arrest those behind the abuse.

Meanwhile, he proposed an increase in the intake of teachers among the local communities in Sarawak for kindergartens or pre-schools.

At present, he said, most teachers serving in kindergarten or pre-school in Sarawak were from the Peninsula, adding that such peculiarity should be avoided to prevent any conflict.

"Secondly, I propose that allocations be made to non-governmental organisations and religious organisations to enable them to start or support their own kindergarten or pre-schools," added Bian.

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