

PM: Solution is to reduce petrol dependency
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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the inevitable long-term solution to the escalating price of petrol was to reduce dependency on petrol.

He said that the government was working hard to improve the public transport system to provide a better alternative to private vehicle users.

"Transportation costs make up a considerable proportion of the rakyat's daily expenses, particularly for the urbanites.

"Therefore, the onus is on the government to slow down and manage the ever escalating fuel cost, without jeopardising other budgeted expenditures on development," he said in his blog www.1malaysia.com.my yesterday.

To date, he said, 38 new sets of electric multiple unit six-carriage commuter trains were purchased under the Urban Public Transport New Key Result Area to improve the KTM Berhad's Kommuter services.

The two-car coaches for the Kelana Jaya Light Rail Transit was now supplemented with new fleets of four-car multiple unit coaches, while rail track extensions were also under way.

Najib said long-distance travellers could also make use of the new double-tracked electric train services from Seremban to Ipoh, with expansion plans to Penang and Perlis.

He said the price of crude oil rose recently due to political instability in the Middle East.

"With that in mind, the government had to decide swiftly on whether to allow the price to rise following the market rate like most neighbouring countries, or to subsidise RON 95, maintaining it at the present price of RM1.90 per litre."

He said to maintain the RON 95 at its current price, the government increased petrol subsidy by almost 10 per cent.

"I cling to the principle that the rakyat's interest always takes priority in the government's decision-making process."

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