

Call On Government To Conduct Comprehensive Study To Formulate New Subsidy System
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin today called on the government to conduct a comprehensive study to formulate a new subsidy system that can ensure the subsidies would only be given to the deserving groups.

He said the existing subsidy system should be stopped as the high-income groups were also benefiting from the government's efforts to help the underprivileged people.

If a more efficient system is in place, the subsidy allocation enjoyed by the undeserving groups can be used to implement other important development projects, he told a press conference after opening the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) here today.

Khairy said the study was vital to ensure that the people would not be 'shocked' if the subsidies were to be stopped in a sudden.

On Jan 20, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that the government was expected to bear RM18.92 billion to subsidise price-controlled items this year.

When asked on the mechanism to be used to ensure the subsidies were given to those who truly need the subsidies, Khairy said the government could use the same data used to identify recipients of the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M).

"We can use the BR1M data to ensure that the new system will only benefit those earning less than RM3,000 per month and this is probably just a beginning.

"Through the systematic subsidy system, I'm confident that the allocation for subsidy can be reduced and hence, the extra money can be used for community projects or rural development," he said.

Meanwhile, Khairy also informed that the ICAPP Committee Council has agreed to set up an ICAPP Youth Wing, which will be operating from Kuala Lumpur, soon.

"This is an opportunity for us to play our roles at the international level and we are planning to invite young leaders from all Asian countries, not only from the ruling parties, but also the opposition, to join the ICAPP Youth Wing Secretariat," he said.

ICAPP is a forum involving the ruling, opposition and independent parties from the Asia-Oceania region. It was established in Manila, Philippine in September 2000.

This year, the one-day conference was attended by 26 delegations from 11 political parties in 11 countries and Malaysia's delegation was led by Umno Supreme Council member and former Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

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