

DAP slams fuel price hike, scorns promise of BR1M help for poor
Malaysian Insider
Sept 2 , 2013
BY EILEEN NG

DAP has expressed concern over the 20-sen hike in RON95. The rise in petrol price will surely impact every aspect of people's daily lives as increased costs are passed to consumers. The Malaysian Insider pic, September 2, 2013. The rise in petrol price will surely impact every aspect of people's daily lives as increased costs are passed to consumers. The Malaysian Insider pic, September 2, 2013. and diesel prices, pointing out that the medium and lower-income groups will be the hardest hit, despite the government promise of cash payouts to the poor to tide them over.

DAP deputy chairman Tan Kok Wai said the price hike will cause a chain reaction, especially with the economy slowing down and the ringgit depreciating

"This will have a spillover effect. The medium and lower-income groups will be the hardest hit."

Raub MP Datuk Mohd Ariff Sabri, who is an economist by training, echoed that warning, saying that other prices will rise as retailers try to pass off the new costs to consumers.

He poured scorn on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's offer to raise the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) payouts, saying that it was not a "long-term solution", but instead a "smoke-screen" to address the people's anxiety.

"It is just a one-off thing. How often can you do this? It cannot address the problem of price increase of goods which will affect the livelihood of people," the DAP member of parliament argued.

He said long-term solutions included addressing runaway government spending and tackling corruption.

He predicted that the hike might eventually lead to an increase in electricity rates.

Deputy president Tan pointed out that the poor public transportation system will not help matters as the public will still depend on their own vehicles to travel. – September 2, 2013.

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