

**No price cut when global oil prices slumped, so why increase now, PKR asks  
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BY EILEEN NG**

With world oil prices on the downward trend since April 2011, PKR today slammed Putrajaya's move to raise RON95 and diesel prices by 20 sen.

"Before this, Barisan Nasional kept giving the excuse that they have no choice but to increase petrol and diesel prices due to escalating world crude oil prices.

"But since April 2011, the world crude oil prices have been recording a decrease," PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli said at a press conference at the party's headquarters in Petaling Jaya today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced a 20-sen hike in RON95 petrol and diesel prices, pointing out that the new prices will save the government at least RM1.1 billion.

To cushion the increase on the public, Najib said the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) payout would be increased this year.

After the announcement, outraged Malaysians formed long queues at petrol stations to fill up and took to social media to express their views.

However, economists hailed it as the right move to address the ever-increasing government debt, which currently stands at 53.5% as at the end of last year.

Rafizi said Putrajaya never reduced the prices of petrol and diesel when crude oil prices slumped globally.

"Even if they do not reduce the prices, the government should be prudent in its spending but this opportunity was wasted and instead, due to excessive spending, Najib has to announce the petrol and diesel price hike," he said.

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