

**Rafizi's "pay for own fuel" idea is stupid, says Nazri, as he calls on Pakatan states to start first**

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**BY ELIZABETH ZACHARIAH**

Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz has described as "stupid" a suggestion by the opposition that cabinet ministers and their deputies pay for their own fuel to show solidarity with the public.

PKR strategic director, Rafizi Ramli (pic) said this would ensure that they "understand the suffering of the people".

"If all of us have to shoulder the burden, this is the least they can do. They can do this immediately," he said at a press conference at the PKR headquarters today.

Nazri said that the suggestion should be implemented by the Pakatan Rakyat administered state governments first.

"I want to rebut that stupid suggestion by (Rafizi). He is a stupid kid. He has accused me of being corrupt before, although I wasn't. I want him to ask his menteri besar and exco members, the Penang chief minister and the menteri besar of Kelantan to pay for their own fuel as well," he said during a press conference at the Matic today.

Najib had announced a 20-sen hike in RON95 petrol and diesel prices yesterday, pointing out that the move will save the government at least RM1.1 billion this year.

In order to reduce the burden on the public, Najib said the Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) payout would be increased this year.

Immediately after the announcement, outraged Malaysians formed long queues at petrol stations 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 end of last year. - September 3, 2013.

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