

**No fuel price hike, says Putrajaya
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The government has denied rumours that fuel prices will go up again at midnight.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan even took to his Twitter account today to dispel fears that RON95 petrol would be increased for the second time this month.

"I would like to deny that the government is cutting subsidy for RON95 by 10 sen tonight. The subsidised RON95 is still at RM2.10 a litre. The real price is RM2.73," he posted.

He explained that the government spent about RM2 billion a month or RM24.8 billion a year in fuel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) subsidies.

"The amount is very big but it is mostly enjoyed by the rich. We need subsidies that are mostly for the poor," he tweeted.

The government cut subsidies for fuel earlier this month, resulting in the price of RON95 petrol and diesel going up 20 sen on September 2. Two days later, RON97 petrol went up by 15 sen.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had said then the new prices would save the government at least RM1.1 billion this year.

To cushion the effects of the price 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 ratio which stood at 53.5% as at the end of last year.

After the fuel price hikes, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Hasan Malek said food prices were expected to go up by only 0.1%. – September 27, 2013.

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