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PM: POLICIES AIM TO BENEFIT THE MAJORITY

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the government is committed to addressing the rising cost of living issues faced by the people. NSTP PIC BY ROHANIS SHUKRI

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

PM: POLICIES AIM TO BENEFIT THE MAJORITY

Anwar says while not all decisions are popular, they are only made after much consideration

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that while not all government decisions and policies are popular or can deliver swift results, they are made with thorough consideration to benefit a majority of Malaysians.

Anwar said this could be seen through the implementation of the rationalisation of diesel subsidies and electricity tariffs to stop longstanding leakages caused by blanket subsidies.

The measures, he said, were in line with the Madani Economy framework launched in July 2023, which provided a clear direction to reshape Malaysia as a leading economic force in Asia.

"The framework offers guidance to leadership and future generations to establish an economic system based on humane principles, compassion, kindness and ensuring justice for every Malaysian.

"In line with this, the government has initiated measures to bring about new shifts this year.

"While I understand that not all decisions and policies are popular or yield immediate results,

all were made with clear political will, sincere intentions and careful consideration to ensure that these policies benefit a majority of the people.

"Take for example, the targeting of diesel subsidies and electricity tariffs to prevent longstanding leakages caused by blanket subsidies benefiting the wealthy and 3.5 million ineligible foreigners," he said in his 2025 New Year message, which was aired yesterday.

Anwar reiterated the government's commitment to address the rising cost of living issues faced by the people.

This, he said, included the increase in the Rahmah Cash Aid (STR) and Rahmah Basic Assistance (SARA) by RM3 billion or 30 per cent, as announced in the 2025 Budget.

"The allocation for STR and SARA was increased by RM10 billion this year, the largest in history.

"God willing, the government plans to further increase the allocation by RM3 billion, or 30 per cent, bringing the total to RM13 billion next year.

"In addition to increasing yearly aid, the government is addressing the issue of rising cost of living through initiatives such as the Payung Rahmah Programme, which is being implemented nationwide.

"Monitoring teams have been mobilised to observe, track and take action against those who ex-

ploit pricing unfairly."

In May, Anwar announced that the cabinet had agreed to implement targeted fuel subsidies starting with diesel, which is projected to save the country RM4 billion annually.

He said the targeted diesel subsidy would apply only to users in Peninsular Malaysia.

Anwar said the RM4 billion savings achieved would be spent on covering public transport costs and cash aid for the people, such as STR.



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

The subsidy rationalisation, he added, was to ensure that the subsidies do not go to the ultra rich and foreigners.

The subsidies would be continued for traders using diesel-powered commercial vehicles and for public transportation, as well as for certain categories of fishermen.

Cash aid would also be given to eligible individuals who own private diesel-powered vehicles, such as small traders and farmers.

Anwar had previously announced the planned rationalisation of subsidies for electricity tariffs, which would save RM4.5 billion.

Some 85 per cent per cent or seven million domestic users in Peninsular Malaysia would remain unaffected by the adjustment to the electricity tariff.

Page 1 pic: A view of the Petronas Twin Towers at night recently.