



In the tabling of the 2020 Budget, it was announced that the petrol subsidy programme would include about five million middle-income earners. FILE PIC

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

M40 group can register for petrol subsidy by April

SHAH ALAM: The petrol subsidy programme (PSP) for the medium-income household (M40) group will be open for registration in the second quarter of this year, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

He said the ministry and the Finance Ministry were looking into a more suitable mechanism to channel the subsidies to recipients, either by card or cash.

"The data for the recipients has been completed and the two ministries are discussing ways to distribute the money.

"The government is looking for a seamless integration where consumers will not feel any difference when buying petrol once PSP is implemented.

"In conducting the study for the B40, the ministry felt that paying cash would be more efficient than other methods, so the deferment of the PSP has enabled both ministries to come to the same decision."

He said this at the Khalid Samad Cup Unity Football Championship here yesterday.

Saifuddin said PSP was implemented by the government to prevent owners of luxury vehicles and foreigners from receiving the subsidies.

PSP, which was supposed to be implemented in Peninsular Malaysia on Jan 1, was meant for some 2.9 million people in the B40 group eligible for the Cost of Living Allowance.

During the tabling of the 2020 Budget last year, Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng announced that PSP would be expanded to include about five million middle-income earners, whose monthly household income was less than RM4,000.

Cars with an engine capacity of 1,600cc and below are eligible for the petrol subsidy, while cars with an engine capacity above 1,600cc must be more than 1 year old to be eligible.

Motorcycles must have an engine capacity of 150cc and below to be eligible, while motorcycles with engines above 150cc must be more than seven years old.

The cabinet, following a meeting on Dec 18, postponed PSP to enable the Finance Ministry to fine-tune its implementation.

It was understood that this was to allow more engagement sessions for better understanding and preparation for the programme's implementation, and to give room for the process of registering recipients from the M40 group, which would be handled by the Finance Ministry.

Bernama



Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail