

Govt may consider floor prices for fuel to help traders

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PUTRAJAYA: Calls to impose a floor price for petrol and diesel due to plummeting global oil prices will be looked into, says Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Alexander Nanta Linggi.

"We will listen to all recommendations. If it is good, we recommend it to the government.

"But it is too early for me to say. This needs in-depth discussion,"

Nanta said after attending a welcoming ceremony for him and his deputy, Datuk Rosol Wahid, at the ministry here yesterday.

Nanta was responding to a suggestion by petrol dealers that the government introduce a floor price for petrol and diesel to prevent losses to traders.

Last week, the price of RON95 petrol was reduced by 18 sen to RM1.89 per litre.

Diesel went down by 17 sen to RM1.96 per litre.

On the targeted petrol subsidy scheme proposed by the Pakatan Harapan government, Nanta said he would discuss with ministry officers on whether it would be continued.

"If anything that is already in place or was proposed ... if they are good for the rakyat then we will keep it, why not?"

"Whatever policies and strategies that are already in place will be retained. There is definitely room for improvement as well.

"Our core business is the rakyat and we must come up with policies that can help ease their burden," said Nanta.

The five-term Kapit MP said as a minister from Sarawak, there were high expectations from the people, especially those in rural areas.

Nanta however said his services would not just be for the people in his home state.

"I am a minister for Malaysia. In the context of Sarawak, there are

expectations that this ministry can help them, especially with the cost of living.

"As you know, many in Sarawak live in remote places. I will do my best," he said.

Nanta is one of the four MPs from Gabungan Parti Sarawak appointed as ministers in the new Perikatan Nasional Cabinet.

Under the Barisan Nasional government, Nanta served as deputy minister of rural and regional development.