

Announcement on targeted fuel subsidy soon



Announcement on the targeted fuel subsidy initiative is expected to be made soon to put to rest rumours of its postponement. - NSTP/AZHAR RAMLI

By Mohamed B - September 8, 2019 @ 4:14pm

GEORGE TOWN: Announcement on the targeted fuel subsidy initiative is expected to be made soon to put to rest rumours of its postponement.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the announcement would be made as soon as the cabinet gives the green light .

He said this when asked to elaborate on a news report that the subsidy scheme was delayed due to lack of data.

Asked if there was any truth in the report in a news portal, he said: "All that will be explained at that time."

Saifuddin said this after launching of Food Bank Siswa at Universiti Sains Malaysia here today.

The targeted RON95 petrol subsidy is a measure outlined under the 2019 Budget to reduce the cost of living for the bottom 40 per cent of households (B40), which is defined as households earning less than RM3,860 per month.



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The ministry had engaged with oil companies, petroleum dealers, Bank Negara Malaysia, Statistics Department and consumer groups to gather sufficient data before the initiative was presented to the Cabinet.

It was initially expected to be rolled out by end of the year. However an online news portal reported that lack of data had left Putrajaya unable to finalise a system to disburse payments to the targeted group.

The report quoted a source that the government could not proceed with the subsidy system as it lacked data on the M40 group.

Another source said that the subsidy for the M40 group could be disbursed through a card payment system.