

Stopping fiery disasters

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by M. Sivanantha Sharma



Saifuddin (blue shirt) filling petrol for a motorcyclist during the Petroleum Safety Awareness Campaign at BH Petrol in Jawi near Nibong Tebal, Penang.

THE Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry (KPDNHEP) is carrying out awareness campaigns on the safe handling of petroleum materials at petrol stations, business premises and housing areas.

Its Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said awareness on this matter among the public was still low.

“Some people still use mobile phones or leave their car engine running at the petrol stations.

“This is very dangerous as it can lead to a large explosion or a fire,” he said after opening the Petroleum Safety Awareness Campaign at BH Petrol in Jawi, near Nibong Tebal, on Saturday.

“Not a single person, including the workers at the station, should be allowed to smoke in any area within the premises.



Firemen helping a 'victim' during a drill at the safety awareness campaign.

"This includes the toilet, the sidewalks or the back of the petrol station," he said.

Saifuddin also urged the public to give the Government more time to finalise the implementation of the petrol subsidy for the lower-income group or B40.

He said that although the implementation date did not meet the target of the second quarter of this year as announced in Budget 2019, he was optimistic that it could be still implemented later this year.

"From the beginning of this year to June, we conducted several meetings with stakeholders such as oil companies, petrol station operators, consumers associations, Bank Negara and governmental agencies.

"The aim was to find the best mechanism to implement the system," he said, adding that the implementation would only be carried out with the backing of the Cabinet.

"We are now in the midst of preparing a Cabinet paper. I am optimistic that we can present it this month and once we have done that, an announcement will be made," he said.

Also present at the awareness campaign were Sungai Acheh assemblyman Zulkifli Ibrahim, Boustead Petroleum Marketing Sdn Bhd (BHPetrol) general manager Azizul Azily Ahmad, KPDNHEP chief secretary Datuk Muez Abd Aziz and BH Petrol Station Jawi operator Nam Nid Den Sed.

Read more at <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2019/07/16/stopping-fiery-disasters/#0R0Xt8bR653s72eW.99>