

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 21 JUN 2023
AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 15

Blanket withdrawal of subsidies is unfair

Blanket withdrawal of subsidies is unfair

KILLING the goose that lays the golden egg is how I would describe the treatment accorded by the government to those in the T20 group.

Many of us in this group today feel the government is choking us up to pay more taxes while denying us any assistance to help ease the high cost of living.

Instead of treating those in the T20 group so unfairly, the ultimate goal of the government should be to focus on creating an equitable and fair tax system that supports economic growth and benefits all members of society.

This should be true regardless of their wealth or income.

Are those in the T20 group any less Malaysian than the others?

Our government should work towards striking a fair balance and not issue a blanket withdrawal of all subsidies for those in the T20 group.

Denying the T20 group government subsidies may be counterproductive.

The government must consider the potential economic impacts of raising taxes on the rich while denying them subsidies.

Earning a monthly income of RM12,000 to support a household of five (parents and three children) in the Klang Valley is not as easy as many would think.

For one, earning that RM12,000 requires both parents to work, and this would mean hiring someone to care for the children

while we are at work.

So, taking into account fees for tuition, daycare, transport and etc., RM12,000 will not go a long way.

In fact, denying the T20 group government subsidies may be more counterproductive.

Policymakers need to consider the potential consequences of their decisions. They must understand that gross household income is certainly not an accurate reflection of financial strength, as this could be different in where people live and how many dependants and commitments they have.

For example, an RM12,000 monthly family income with three school-going children in the Klang Valley could not be considered on the same level as a family living in Kangar where the cost of living is much lower.

To us in the T20 group, in all

honesty, this is absolute abuse by our policymakers who seem to have no idea on how to generate income.

Instead of burdening just about 20% of the national population, they should look into ways to improve revenue by empowering the export-import sectors as well as ensuring that existing subsidies are not prone to leakages.

They could also reduce or abolish one-off subsidies and lean towards programmes that allow those in the low-income group to bolster their own standard of living. In other words, teach them how to fish instead of giving them the fish!

Imposing all kinds of burdens and restrictions on us in the T20 group makes us feel like we are being ostracised from society.

KHAIRUL NIZAM ZIAUDDIN
Nilai, Negri Sembilan