

Diesel issue fuelled by dishonest workers

PRESS DIGEST

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Some patrons are willing to cough up *duit kopi* in order to save the runaround.

It has been reported earlier that many states are experiencing a shortage of diesel but there is no clear indication of the causes.

Many owners of diesel vehicles are greeted with the *diesel habis* notice at the pump and have to visit up to five kiosks to fill the tank.

According to a report in *China Press* yesterday, some kiosk attendants would tell patrons their pumps had run dry but show hand signals to suggest that it could still be had for some *duit kopi*.

A Petrol Dealers Association of Malaysia (PDAM) source told the daily the big difference of 87 sen a litre between the prices of industrial and subsidised diesel is fuelling the rampant smuggling of the commodity that is partly to blame for the shortage, but everyone seems to be pointing the finger at the dealers.

Also to blame are the black sheep among kiosk workers taking advantage of the shortage to profit by collecting a small fee from patrons in return for allowing the fuel to flow from the pump, said the source.

"We have received complaints from regular patrons that attendants are practising double standards.

"For example, a customer is told a kiosk has run out of diesel but as he is leaving, he can see from the rear view mirror that another patron is being attended to after some haggling with the attendant.

"I have seen some patrons pushing money into the pockets of kiosk workers. I also saw a truck driver pay RM2,000 at the counter but was given only RM1,900 worth of diesel. The RM100 was used to bribe the cashier," said the source.

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