

NST - Fuel relief: Thank government for pledge to maintain price, says Fomca

Written by Administrator

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KUALA LUMPUR: It's time for the people to say "thank you" to the government. Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations president Datuk N. Marimuthu said the government had done good by pledging not to raise fuel prices although world oil prices have been climbing steadily. The previous time the government raised fuel prices by 30 sen was in February 2006 when the world oil price then was over US\$60 (RM196), he said.

"Now it is US\$132, so people should just accept it and change their lifestyle instead," he said. Marimuthu said the decision not to raise prices until the end of the year augured well for the business sector as it allowed them to plan their production and operations cost for at least the next six months. Meanwhile, Malaysian Trades Union Congress deputy president Mohd Khalid Atan said it was high time for salary reviews across the board to help people cope. "Prices of everything are going up so fast, people will not be able to live off their current low salaries." Mohd Khalid said the cost of living allowance (Cola) should be extended to all employees. Pan Malaysia Bus Operators Association chairman Datuk Mohamad Ashfar Ali welcomed the move by the government not to further raise fuel prices this year. "The government is giving the public transport industry diesel at RM1.43 per litre. We welcome that because it will not push up prices," he added.