

Judul : Pertamina gears up for fuel demand surge in Ramadan, Idul Fitri
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Pertamina fuel trucks refilling at a fuel station in Makassar, South Sulawesi, next to a restaurant selling the regional specialty Coto Makassar. (Pertamina/Pertamina)

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(The Jakarta Post)

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State-owned oil and gas company Pertamina has formed a special task force to oversee the supply and distribution of fuel, particularly diesel, during the Ramadan fasting month and ahead of the Idul Fitri celebrations.

Pertamina president director Nicke Widyawati said on Wednesday that the company expected diesel fuel consumption during the period to rise by 20 to 30 percent from normal levels and thus had made preparations to ensure supplies remained sufficient.

"We expect demand to rise sharply, especially diesel because it is related to logistics ahead of Idul Fitri," she said in a hearing with House Commission VII overseeing energy on Wednesday.

The festive period comes as trucking companies reported delivery delays due to subsidized diesel shortages at gas stations in certain parts of Indonesia, partly due to rising global oil prices.

Meanwhile, Pertalite gasoline consumption is expected to increase by 11 percent from normal levels to 81,406 kiloliters (kl) per day in the same period, Pertamina fuel distributor subsidiary PT Pertamina Patra Niaga projects. The average daily sales in March stood at 73,180 kl per day.

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Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), kerosine, Pertalite, Pertamax and Solar supplies are enough for 13 days, 47 days, 16 days, 37 days and 22 days, respectively, according to Pertamina Patra Niaga president director Alfian Nasution.

"The fuel oil supply is very secure," he said in the same hearing on Wednesday.



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However, subsidized Solar diesel consumption is expected to decrease by 5 percent nearing Idul Fitri as truck operations and industrial activities decline.

"Considering the current high intensity of transportation and logistics operations, we predict Solar consumption to only decline by 5 percent," said Alfian. "Usually Solar consumption decreases up to 10 percent nearing Idul Fitri holiday."

Meanwhile, Pertamina consumption is projected to decrease by 15 percent to 18,251 kl per day, from the average daily consumption of 21,573 kl per day.

Read also: [Subsidized diesel shortage hits trucking industry](#)

The Ramadan and Idul Fitri task force, called the RAFI Task Force, began operations on March 14, but would be officially deployed from April 11 to May 10 to check fuel oil availability, including subsidized Solar diesel and subsidized gasoline Pertalite, at gas stations across Indonesia.

The company has also provided additional fuel services on potentially crowded routes including toll roads, tourist routes and main traffic lanes and has opened a 24-hour information center for energy distribution from upstream, refineries, shipping and fuel terminals to gas stations.