Senior citizens face hard times

By HARAJI AZZAN

Senior citizens face hard times. Their financial situation is not as rosy as they may think. Many have to work part-time or do casual jobs to make ends meet. The cost of living is increasing, and many are struggling to pay for their utilities, medications, and other necessities. The government should provide more support and resources to help them. So, what can be done to improve their situation?
Cutting costs affects quality of life for elderly

Still, he adds, many retirees who are able or can afford do drive their own cars.

"A full tank for my car used to be around RM55 to RM60, now it is about RM90. Now, I still put in RM60 but it only lasts about three-and-a-half days. Driving is no longer a pleasure. I've become more calculative," he says.

These days, Ovini, who lives in Old Klang Road, only leaves his home when it is absolutely necessary, cutting down on leisure and recreation. However, like many urban folk, Ovini helps out with his grandchildren, which requires him to commute daily from his home to Sri Damansara.

"I still drive out every day because I am helping my daughter to pick up her children from school while she is at work. I have been forced to reschedule their pick-up time though to save petrol.

"My two youngest grandchildren finish kindergarten earlier than their sister at primary school but because picking them up first would require me to backtrack quite far, I now pick up their sister first before heading off to the kindergarten to pick them up and send them home.

"So, the victims of the petrol hike are the little children who now have to wait an hour after they finish school before they are taken home," he says.

Ovini feels that the quality of his family life has been affected since the fuel price hike.

"It's not just about cutting down on your groceries. I used to go to Seremban to see my children every fortnight, and to Johor Baru to visit my mother, now I think twice before doing that," he says.

Similarly, Norina shares that her children have cut down their trips home to visit her due to the high petrol price.

"I get upset when I think about it but I know that I am still luckier than some pensioners who barely have enough to survive on," she says.