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Budget is aimed at Vision 2020

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BEFORE every Budget presentation most people get the jitters about expected bomb-shells in the form of additional taxes that every Government considers a reliable device to replenish reduced revenue.

It is a truism, and like most truisms often forgotten, that taxes have a tendency to find the lowest level. In the last analysis, almost all taxes ultimately hit the common man.

But nothing of that sort was revealed in the 2003 Budget on Sept 20. Even the vague expectation that alcohol and tobacco could be victims of additional taxation proved baseless.

The Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad presented a budget aimed at galvanising every gamut of human endeavour in the nation's march towards Vision 2020.

As usual, the Opposition branded the Budget as having lots of political sex appeal with an eye on the next general election.

However, this Budget, to my mind, makes the common man the beneficiary