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Dr M's Budget 2004 offers new gifts to the 'have-less'

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EVERYONE now knows the Budget 2004 is a comprehensive package that touches almost every sector of the economy.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Prime Minister, had obviously given a lot of thought to the proposals he outlined in the Dewan Rakyat for close to three hours on Friday.

I believe it is a Budget that has taken into account the needs of the "have-less" than the "have-more". Dr Mahathir must have thought deeply about the package.

It's important to know that in formulating the budget, Dr Mahathir had taken into account the nation's financial strength before providing the "have-less" with more benefits.

The critics may think and conclude otherwise.

They may suggest that the proposals are his way of saying goodbye to the people, and that the general election is round the corner.

The general election is certainly coming, barring any major catastrophe - it'll be here whether there's a Budget presentation or not.

Syabas to Dr M and his financial team. There's much new thinking in the Budget proposals and I believe that the Government is moving towards an even more caring stance.

The Government's strong sense of social responsibility is showing more with its willingness to build and provide lowcost homes to deserving citizens.

In adhering to its caring philosophy, the Government is willing to forego revenue (such as the abolition of road tax for motorcycles of 150cc and below), but there will be gains if the people for whom the proposals are made for put the money that is saved to productive use.