

THE STAR

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Budget for Vision 2020

Emphasis on transforming Malaysia into high-income nation



THE Budget was formulated to bring about significant changes to the country's development and the rakyat's well being, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

He said the Government wanted a Malaysia where everyone was capable of achieving happiness with success only limited by the amount of hard work one was willing to put in.

"My Cabinet colleagues and I have the vision to continue bringing prosperity to all parts of the country. This is not an impossible vision and it isn't an empty dream,

"We are not dream merchants who are only selling fairy tales. We are a party that builds dreams based on reality," he said in his speech when tabling the Budget.

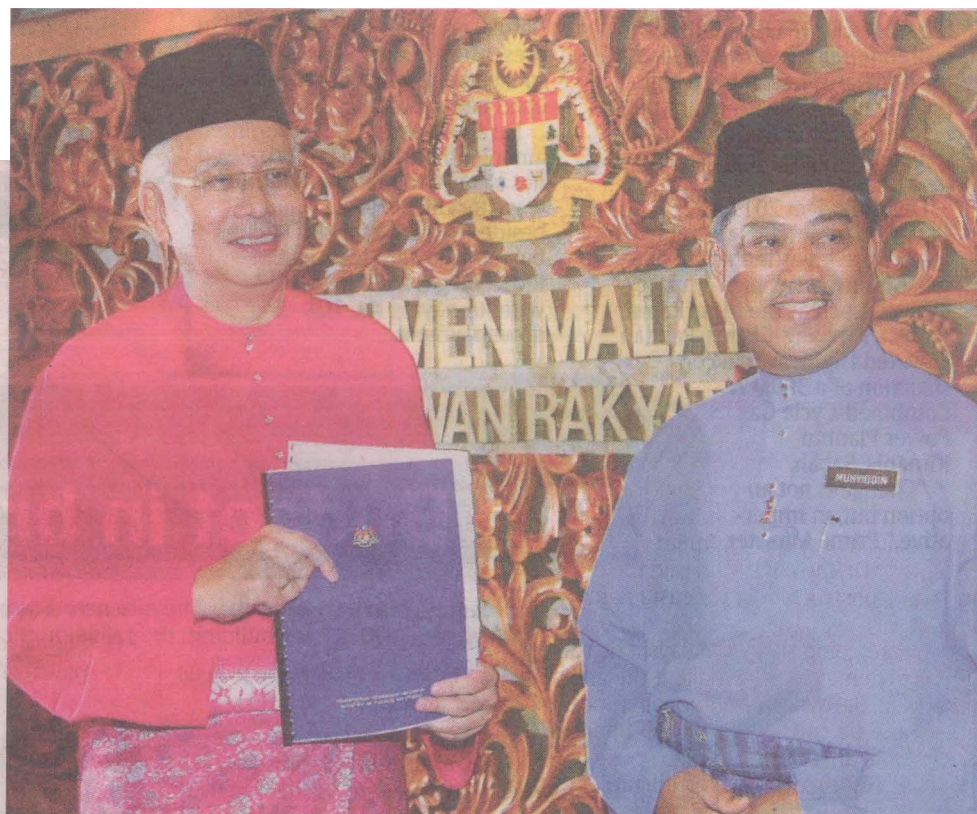
Najib said what the Government had achieved so far had been due to detailed planning, implementation and sacrifices, and that it would not take the easy way out by gambling the country's long-term interests for short-term popularity.

He said the *rakyat* should realise that their future and that of their children were too priceless to be handed over to "irresponsible parties".

The Budget emphasised on efforts to transform the nation into a developed and high-income economy with inclusive and sustainable development, spearheaded by the private sector, Najib said.

"This Budget is a precursor in our final efforts towards achieving Vision 2020, which is 3,365 days away," he said, adding that it would lay the foundation for Malaysia to become an advanced nation.

"This transformation process is holistic, encompassing economic, social and political aspects," he said, adding that the Government had upheld the 1 Malaysia concept as the fun-



Reality Budget: Najib holding the Budget 2011 book after his presentation at Parliament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. - Bernama

damental philosophy in driving the development path.

"The era of the 'the Government knows best' is over. In formulating this Budget, the Government consulted and took into consideration views from various groups, comprising the public and private sector, focus groups, media, 1 Malaysia blog as well as lab sessions.

"I appreciate the contributions of all those involved. This is the strength of 1 Malaysia. With these ideas, coupled with unrelentless

efforts, I am confident that we shall overcome challenges and obstacles," he said.

He said the Government had also revised upwards this year's growth to 7% from the forecast 6% due to effective measures taken to recover from the global recession and the implementation of two stimulus packages worth RM67bil.

Najib said for next year, the country's economy was expected to expand between 5% and 6%, but that the Government would "strive for 6%".