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Many believe NKRA is a positive step forward

The people share their thoughts on the government's move to implement the National Key Results Areas over various aspects of the public service.

MANY people feel that the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) introduced by the Government is a positive effort and believed that the concept should be widened and improved for the benefit of the people.

Among the targets under the NKRA are improving urban public transport, reducing crime, reducing corruption, improving the quality of education, improving rural infrastructure and improving the living standards of the poor.

Improving urban public transport

Association for the Improvement of Mass Transit chairman Moaz Yusof Ahmad welcomed the implementation of the Rapid Bus Express Transit (RapidBET) in January, which has been cutting travel time between the suburbs and Kuala Lumpur's city centre by half.

He hoped such services would be quickly extended to link suburban areas to ease congestion during peak hours and for commuters to bypass the city centre.

College student Wong Chi Hao, 22, from Wangsa Maju in Kuala Lumpur, said he had benefited much from the improvement in train capacity especially on the Kelana Jaya line.

The four-car light rail transit trains, which can carry more passengers than the old trains, began operating along the Kelana Jaya LRT route at the end of last year.

"The four trains have really helped to ease the daily grind of sitting in overcrowded trains.

"I look forward to the full implementation of bigger capacity trains servicing commuters at greater frequencies," he said.

Self-employed Tracy Nonis, 55, applauds the Government's move to improve public transport under the policy but suggests that more consideration should be given to the elderly and disabled people.

"Other than building state-of-the-art and advanced facilities, the government should also think about installing ramps and shorter pathways for senior citizens and disabled people," she said.

Reducing crime

Student Mohd Syafiq Anis, 23, and businesswoman Prema Semple, 46 said that the NKRA introduced by the Government could tackle some of the major problems in the country includ-



Rozana: Applauds the Govt's NKRA plans.



Mohd Syafiq: 'The NKRA could tackle major problems including the rising crime rate.'



Joan: Govt's plan to fight corruption was a timely move.



Sin Wee: Especially likes that more children in rural areas would be ensured a good education.

ing the rising crime rate.

"The NKRA has compelled the government to begin implementing ways to fight crime such as increasing police presence on the streets which has resulted in a drop in the crime rate," he said.

Petaling Jaya resident Janelle Lee said she had observed more police patrols around her neighbourhood in Section 17.

"They now patrol my neighbourhood during the wee hours of the morning in teams of four everyday.

"It is a good showing by the cops. I heard from my friends that they arrive at situations faster now," she noted.

Fighting corruption

In the battle against corruption, the lab's target to improve the country's standing in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) had Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Datuk Paul Low lauding it.

He added that it was encouraging to see key performance index measures that were independent and internationally benchmarked; the Global Corruption Barometer and TI's CPI being adopted.

"There are many encouraging proposals such as tackling petty corrup-

tion in enforcement agencies and grand corruption by politicians and senior civil servants, protecting whistle-blowers and reducing leakages in Government procurement," Low added.

Meanwhile, 57-year-old retiree Joan Valperg, thought that the government's plan to fight corruption under the NKRA was a timely move.

"It is good to see that the Government is taking it into their hands to lessen corruption and increasing efficiency," she said.

Improving the quality of education

National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng expressed her confidence that the implementation of high performing schools would set a trajectory in making education in the country world class.

"We can say that we have made it to international levels when we produce students who are not only apt academically but also have greater mindset and vision to be able to think for themselves and be leaders of the country," said Lok.

Retired super principal Datuk Mary Yap said she was happy to see that

pre-school education was being given a strong focus.

"This schooling phase plays a very effective role in preparing young learners before they start their primary school education," she said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also the Education Minister, in February announced that grants and training would be given to private pre-schools that followed the ministry curriculum.

Madeline Kindergarten managing director Jeffrey Chew said the grant will play a crucial role in maintaining the rates of pre-school fees.

"In terms of generating more funds, pre-schools cannot charge fees beyond what the general public can afford. Here's where the grant can come in to help," he said.

Chew, who has managed his pre-school for over 12 years, estimates that the current initial start-up cost for a pre-school may be as much as RM200,000 in an urban setting.

"The initial outlay can be quite heavy," he added.

Pre-school operators in Penang were also encouraged by the news.

"The most crucial problem private

pre-schools face is the training of teachers. Most of them do not have professional training," said S. Kavita, the principal of Little Geeks Kindy in Bandar Baru Air Itam.

Improving rural infrastructure

Publisher Goon Chern Yuet, 22, said development of rural infrastructure was important in the country's aspiration to be a developed nation by 2020.

"By providing the proper amenities, we can well say if the entire country has proper infrastructure, it will fulfill a big criteria in being a developed country," she said.

Eradicating poverty

Anna Purany, 65 said that the Government's action under the NKRA to raise the living standard of the people especially those in the lower-income group was critical for the nation to move forward.

"I feel happy to see that the Government is concerned about improving the quality of life of the urban poor," she said.

However, labourer Azemi Hashim, 43, said that the implementation of the NKRA should be continued even after it achieved the targets set by the Prime Minister.