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# BN's pledges 'realistic, achievable'

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## TACKLING BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES:

Analysts say manifesto involved careful planning and contains reasonable and logical promises

**NAJMUDDIN NAJIB**  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**A** DAY after the launch of the Barisan Nasional election manifesto by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, its pledges and underlying theme continue to draw praise from all quarters.

The 154 pledges listed out in 17 areas of the manifesto have been described as "realistic and achievable", while regular Malaysians have expressed their gratitude at the prime minister's plans to better their quality of life.

The manifesto, unveiled by Najib on Saturday, addresses not only "bread-and-butter" issues such as easing the cost of living, public transport and housing, but also tackles broader subjects which include education, infrastructure development and preservation of nature.

Analysts have pointed out that BN's manifesto appears to have been the result of careful planning and contains reasonable and logical promises.

Among the highlights of the pledges include raising the BR1M cash aid to RM1,200 and RM600 for households and singles respectively, and increasing the 1Malaysia



Barisan Nasional chairman **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** and BN leaders at the **launch** of BN's election manifesto in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Pic by Osman Adnan



book vouchers for university students to RM300 and 1Malaysia Schoolchild Aid for schoolchildren to RM150.

Announcement of the bigger cash aid was met with joy by its recipients, who said it would assist in reducing their financial burden.

Economic experts have also given it their nod of approval, and opined that the manifesto's pledges can be executed without risking the country's financial stability and, at the same time,

improves the economy.

Universiti Utara Malaysia associate professor and political analyst Dr Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani noted that BN's manifesto appeared to follow the path charted by the Government Transformation Programme, which would ensure a smooth continuity of policies to enable effective implementation.

"This (manifesto) is set to provide political and economic transformation to the country."

Meanwhile, on the political front, the manifesto has received roaring approval from BN leaders,

who said it reflected the government's intention to propel the country to the next level of development.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the BN manifesto should be viewed seriously as it explained clearly and in detail what BN would do if given a strong mandate to govern the country for the next five years.

"Surely the people are wise enough to compare the two manifestos, BN's and the opposition's. Which can be believed and fulfilled?"

Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar

Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said the striking difference between BN's manifesto and the opposition's was that the former's manifesto was "a promise".

"The BN manifesto is a promise; a continuation of our work and commitment to further improve the people's lives without jeopardising the country's future," he said.

Observers have also noted that despite its promises, Pakatan Rakyat had managed to implement only 15 per cent of its 31 election pledges worth RM2.4 billion, made in its 2008 manifesto.