

Newspaper	Malaysian Reserve
Date	16 October 2015

Budget 2016 to ensure higher education for B40 households

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BUDGET 2016

BUDGET 2016, to be tabled on Oct 23, will ensure that the bottom 40% (B40) household income group continues to have opportunities for and access to higher education and skills training so that they would have stable and better jobs, said Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

The prime minister (PM) said the budget will also make provisions for the B40 households to enjoy affordable houses, higher income, acquisition of wealth and quality of life.

"Budget 2016 is important because of the most challenging global economic situation. It cannot be denied that the global economic uncertainty we see today has more or less jeopardised the Malaysian economic situation and raised concerns among certain sections of society.

"In this context, the B40 households are the most easily affected and in need of job stability and higher income to meet the costs of education, house ownership and cost of living," he said in his latest post on his blog, *NajibRazak.com*.

Nevertheless, he said, the



Najib (front) at the MSC Malaysia Implementation Council Meeting in Perdana Putra yesterday. Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (second from left) with Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Salleh Said Keruak (third from left) and MDeC CEO Datuk Yasmin Mahmood (left)

government has to ensure that the capital economy remains active to generate the people economy, and the two economies have to be enhanced to bring the nation to the level of the high-income countries by 2020.

Najib also said he will submit ideas provided by the people through the #Budget2016 campaign to the Finance Ministry for a comprehensive evaluation.

The majority of people who provided suggestions during the campaign, held from Sept 1 to 18, asked the government to help ease the daily burden, particularly of those in the low-income group.

"Many also expressed concern over the high cost of houses, which was beyond their means.

"There were also sugges-

tions for the government to not only improve the public transportation network in Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley but also invest in new KTM (commuter) or light rail transit projects in the urban centres in the other states," he said.

Najib said that in a survey carried out on his blog from Sept 18 to Oct 1, cost of living, housing and life in the cities, and education were the three important categories selected by the people in the implementation of Budget 2016.

Meanwhile, in Putrajaya, he said the benefits of Malaysia's digital economy initiative have begun to filter down to the people and organisations, and among the largest group of beneficiaries are Malaysians in the B40 of the income pyramid, said Najib.

The PM in his opening remarks at the 27th MSC Malaysia Implementation Council Meeting said they have benefitted through initiatives such as eRezeki that enables them to earn additional income via digital means.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said that the Multimedia Development Corp (MDeC) will be taking the concept of digital income for the rakyat to another level with the introduction of eUsahawan.

Sharing success stories of the eRezeki initiative, Najib cited examples about a self-employed Kuala Lumpur man, Yazid Mohd Zaiki, who over a span of two months earned almost RM2,000 by performing simple digital tasks while an executive secretary from Sawarak, Bong NN, earned over RM600 by performing photo moderation tasks.

"Beyond achievements in the capital economy, the benefits of our national digital economy initiative have begun to filter down to the people and organisations that matter," he said.

Najib said the country's digital economy is heading in the right direction, achieving 17% contribution to the national gross domestic product in 2014, which is the target initially set for 2020.

He said MSC Malaysia, which is fundamental to the national digital economy, has contributed over RM295 billion in revenue to the Malaysian economy, RM283 billion worth of investments and more than 147,000 jobs since its inception in 1996. — *Bernama*