

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	16 October 2015

Najib: Help for B40 on the way

NST - 16/10/2015



VULNERABLE: PM promises equal opportunity, skills training for low-income group

ZAFIRA ANWAR
 KUALA LUMPUR
 zafira@nst.com.my

THE upcoming 2016 Budget will ensure equal opportunity and access to higher education and skills training for the Bottom 40 (B40), or low-income group, which comprises 40 per cent of households.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was to safeguard B40 households in securing better and more stable jobs.

"B40 is the most vulnerable group and this (2016 Budget) ensures they will get better and more stable jobs, apart from providing affordable homes, increasing their income, acquisition of wealth and better quality of life.

"Sustainability in household income is important. That is why I stressed on the people's economy," he said on his blog, NajibRazak.com, yesterday.



MEN OF SCIENCE

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak speaking at the 3rd Apec Economies' Chief Science Advisors and Equivalents meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, where he urged scientific minds to come up with solutions to the near-annual haze problem facing the country. Present is (seated, front row centre) chief science adviser to the prime minister Professor Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid. Pic by Khairull Azry Bidin

→ Report on Page 4

Najib said for the people's economy to prosper, the government had to ensure that the capital economy continued to grow.

"Both economies (capital economy and people's economy) need to be enhanced to elevate the country to greater heights, on a par with high-income countries as we approach Vision 2020."

Najib, who is also finance minister, said the 2016 Budget was affected by the challenging global economic situation.

"It cannot be denied that the global economic uncertainty we see today has more or less jeopardised our economic situation, raising concerns among sections of society.

"The economic situation is expected to prolong due to fluctuating oil prices and other main commodities that were still low, apart from the slow pace of world's economy, particularly of trading partners."

Najib had previously called on Malaysians to contribute their thoughts and suggestions for the

#Bajet2016 survey on his blog from Sept 1 to 18.

He said many, particularly low-income groups, had requested that the government ease the financial burden on their day-to-day lives, as well as voiced their concerns over the high cost of houses, priced beyond their means.

"There were also suggestions for the government to not only improve the public transportation network in Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley but also to have more KTM or LRT

projects in urban centres outside the Klang Valley," he said, adding that he would submit the suggestions to the Finance Ministry for evaluation.

Najib said a study conducted from Sept 18 to Oct 1 on his blog revealed that cost of living, housing and urban living, and education were the top three concerns of the rakyat.

Najib gave his assurance that the country's economic growth would remain on a robust and stable platform through several measures to be tabled in the budget on Oct 23.