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2016 BUDGET



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** tabling the 2016 Budget in **Parliament** yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

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People remain priority in Budget

FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE: PM tables plan that benefits ordinary Malaysians, ensures sustainable growth

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IT was a tough juggling act but in the end, the 2016 Budget unveiled yesterday brought some cheer to ordinary Malaysians and ensures sustainable growth despite global headwinds.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, in delivering a relatively painless but fiscally responsible Budget, made it clear that the people's well-being remained his priority, while supporting growth and controlling the fiscal deficit.

Taking 105 minutes to deliver his seventh Budget as finance minister, Najib gave middle- and low-income

families, the young, pensioners, housing developers and some business sectors quite a bit to be happy about.

"We need to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth," he said, wearing a purple baju Melayu and with his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, sitting next to him.

The government, he said, lowered

its gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection range to between four and five per cent for next year, down from between 4.5 and 5.5 per cent this year, on the back of a challenging external environment, and depressed oil and commodity prices.

Najib's main budget thrusts included addressing bread-and-butter

issues — the rising cost of living, housing, education, income levels, public transportation, crime, national security, healthcare and job creation.

New measures include increased Malaysia People's Aid (BRIM) payouts for low-income families, more funds for affordable housing, a

→ Continued next page