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# Nation's Budget 2017 wish list

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## Employment, taxes and social issues among people's top concerns

By **HEMANANTHANI SIVANANDAM**  
and **LOSHANA K. SHAGAR**  
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

**PETALING JAYA:** Employment, taxes and social issues were among the popular concerns Malaysians hope Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak would address in Budget 2017.

On Sept 5, the Prime Minister asked the public to share their ideas on what the new Budget should address and thousands of Malaysians posted their concerns on <https://bajet2017.najibrazak.com>.

Today is the last day of submission.

Among the popular suggestions

contributed was for contract staff in the civil service to be given full-time positions.

Scharina Sharifin hoped the suggestion would be considered as contract staff do not enjoy retirement benefits.

"Also, at least a one-month bonus would be helpful for us to deal with the rising cost of living," she wrote.

Zainuddin Ali suggested that the Government amend the relevant laws and circulars to allow for contractual staff to be absorbed as full timers.

On the matter of affordable housing, Joshua Phua Pei Xing praised the Government for its efforts in providing such housing, especially for the B40 group.

"I wish the Government would focus more on providing affordable housing for the middle income group too!" he said.

Ong Boon Teong asked the Government to increase the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and life insurance tax exemption limit to RM10,000.

"The EPF deduction for someone with a salary of RM5,000 a month is RM6,000 annually.

"For a family with two children, the life insurance will cost RM4,000. Therefore, a tax exemption of RM10,000 is required," he wrote.

Voter registration was also among the issues raised, and a contributor known only as Nim said automatic voter registration

should be considered.

"The Election Commission and the National Registration Department should collaborate to register MyKad holders aged 21 and above automatically, with the voting constituency based on the address on their MyKad," said Nim.

The 15 topics open for suggestion are culture and tourism; taxation, business and finance; employment; environment and agriculture; public facilities; social welfare; youth and sports; public safety and transparency; education; economic development; rural development; transport and infrastructure; healthcare; housing and urban living; and cost of living.