

# Dr Mahathir confident Malaysians will receive Budget well

*The Star - 12/10/2019 p. 2*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Prime Minister is convinced Pakatan Harapan's Budget 2020 will be well received by the people.

"Looks like many people will be happy.

"Almost everybody gets something," Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a press conference after the tabling of the Budget yesterday.

He said despite having a massive debts to repay, the country's eco-

nomic performance had improved with growth for 2019 projected at 4.7%, adding that a 4.8% rate was possible next year.

"This means that the (Pakatan) administration is still doing well, although we had to clean up the government.

"Many may feel that the Pakatan government has no experience and may not be able to govern the country well.

"But from what we heard (in the Budget speech), allocations were increased for all and this shows that our financial position is still strong," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng had prepared a sound Budget that reflected the strength of the present administration and also described the country's credit rating as being "very good".

"But of course we have to borrow from the best offer and Samurai bonds will attract an interest rate of 0.5%," he said when asked if he was concerned about the credit ratings following higher Budget allocations and the issuance of a second Samurai Bond.

He also said the government will work out the full details on the proposed takeover of the four highway concessionaires.

When asked whether the Cabinet had approved the decision to take over four highways from Gamuda, Dr Mahathir said: "The four highways, we will have to look at the details of them. But the four will be privatised."

In July, Lim said the government's proposed RM6.2bil takeover of four highway concessionaires would not see toll charges abolished, only reduced.