

'M'sian Family will be provided for'

PM: Budget 2022 was drawn up to take into account views from all quarters

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KUALA LUMPUR: Budget 2022 has wow factors as it was drawn up to benefit all quarters in line with the Malaysian Family concept, which assures that no one is left out in the country's recovery agenda after experiencing difficulties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said Budget 2022 was from the people, by the people, for the people and would be of high impact encompassing aid for the B40 and M40 groups, support for businesses to ensure the micro, small and medium enterprises have access to funding to activate all businesses.

"Besides continuous assistance for the vulnerable and non-vulnerable groups, Budget 2022 is disabled-friendly," he said in the Prime Minister's interview session with the media on Budget 2022 yesterday.

Budget 2022 will be tabled by Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz at the Dewan Rakyat sitting tomorrow.

Ismail Sabri, reported Bernama, said Budget 2022 would generate more jobs in tackling unemployment and in enabling the recovery process to return the country and its economy to pre-Covid-19 pandemic times with new norms in place.



Focused: Ismail Sabri (seated right) and Tengku Zafrul checking some Budget 2022 documents at the Treasury last night, watched by Treasury officials.

He said Budget 2022 was drawn up carefully and comprehensively, taking into account the views of all quarters including the opposition parties so as to meet their aspiration for Malaysian Family togetherness.

He added that the Finance Ministry's Budget 2022 portal received over 50,000 suggestions from the public that were taken into consideration.

Budget 2022, he said, also received input from the business sector on providing tax incentives to assist companies adversely impacted by the pandemic to revive

their businesses, which would also benefit their workers.

"This Budget also ensures the continuity of the policies and assistance to support the people and businesses so as to remain resilient in facing a crisis and to continue protecting their income and businesses while enabling post-pandemic innovations so that they could rise again, stronger and more competitive in tandem with the country's development.

"We are still providing aid directly to the people and micro entrepreneurs who were forced to close their business and with no capital

to reopen, so we will be focusing on how to assist them," he added.

Ismail Sabri said the government had previously implemented eight aid and economic stimulus packages amounting to RM530bil and if the aid were stopped too early, it could disrupt the economic recovery momentum.

He also said the nation's digitalisation agenda, including the implementation of 5G, which would be led by Digital Nasional Berhad, would be given focus.

"Efforts to strengthen digitalisation are crucial based on the experience during the Covid-19 pandemic,

which saw many people shifting to online services, especially traders," he said.

"The efforts would be carried out through the implementation of the National Digital Network (Jendela) whereby a total of 6.43 million premises nationwide had been covered by fibre optic networks with gigabit access.

"This showed that the plan is on track to achieve its target of 7.5 million premises by the end of 2022.

"We want to make sure the whole country has (Internet) coverage two years from now, we don't want any more tree climbing issues in Sabah and Sarawak to get Internet coverage. We don't want to be left behind," he said.

Ismail Sabri said in terms of 4G coverage, it has reached 94% as of last month and the government has offered various initiatives to encourage 3G users to switch to 4G like the Jaringan Prihatin Programme, Remaja Keluarga Malaysia Package and Peranti Keluarga Malaysia Package.

He said all economic sectors were expected to benefit from 5G which also created a new ecosystem in delivering the 4th Industrial Revolution (IR4.0), digital transformation, cloud services, Internet of Things data and Artificial Intelligence.