

**Budget 2012: Described As Inclusive
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) - The 2012 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has been described as inclusive and affects people from all levels, from pupils to retirees.

The budget is also deemed as the best budget in history since the country gained independence 54 years ago.

Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said no mega projects were announced as the budget is to help people face rising cost of living.

Shafie who is also Umno vice-president was happy that a large allocation was given to the development of rural areas.

"The allocation for development of rural areas include RM1bil for building halls and will also benefit fishermen in my constituency," he added.

Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the budget involves all segments of society who receive contributions from the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

"The idea is to help the people. Teachers, retirees, veterans and ex-servicemen receive aid to ease their burden. Members of Parliament were also considered in the budget.

"Students are given books subsidy while parents also receive financial aid to ease their burden of rising price of goods," he added.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said the budget benefits workers in the public and private sector.

He said the increase in retirement age gives those healthy the chance to continue serving and meets the demand of Cuepacs.

"The ministry supports this because the health of Malaysians has improved leading to a longer life," he said.

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said it is the best overall budget.

"It meets the expectation of all parties regardless of age, from fishermen to farmers, soldiers, policemen, taxi drivers, parents, senior citizens and others," he said.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Sharizat Jalil said the budget balances economic development and social development.

"It is a balanced, fair and forward looking budget," she said.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the budget successfully translates the 1Malaysia concept of People First.

"The Prime Minister said People First and we can see that the budget gives a big boost to the people," he said.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the budget boost efforts to increase the number of creative and innovative students while making the nation an innovation hub.

"This can be seen through the implementation of innovative and development programmes at institutions of higher learning consistent with the objective to make 2012 the Year of Innovation," he added.

Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin said the budget stimulates the economy and has big impact on the people.

"I'm happy because it aims to help the low income group and as an elected representative, the distribution of allocation means a lot to me," he said.

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