

Fomca: Budget 2012 Hears The Voices And Needs Of The People
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (Fomca) hailed the 2012 Budget tabled by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, describing it as "a well-covered budget that hears the voices and needs of the people."

Its president Datuk N. Marimuthu said the various affirmative measures taken by the government in the budget would bring relief to the people, especially the lower income groups in facing the rising cost of living.

"It is on the right track especially to help the people cushion the impact of rising cost of living," he told Bernama here Friday.

Najib, in tabling the budget, announced the continuation of the various subsidies which include food, diesel and cooking gas subsidies and also the subsidisation of household electricity usage less than RM20 a month.

Among others, subsidies, incentives and assistance totaling RM33.2 billion will be continued next year.

The government will also launched "Program Kebajikan Rakyat 1Malaysia" or KAR1SMA which will provide monetary aid between RM100 to RM450 to children and senior citizens from poor families, as well as disabled persons.

Marimuthu also hoped that the measures would be implemented well in order for the people to reap its maximum benefits, and for the people and consumers who benefited from the moves to make good use of the assistance.

Meanwhile, Association of Malay Merchants and Entrepreneurs Malaysia president Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir said the 2012 Budget would enhance the country's food security by enhancing food production.

"Food security is important to ensure stability in the prices of foodstuff," he said, adding that a stable price would help ease the people's burden.

Malay Muslim Consumers Association secretary-general Datuk Dr Ma'amor Osman said an increase in food production would lower the price of foodstuff and lessen dependency on import.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Northern Branch chairman Datuk O.K. Lee also described Budget 2012 as "the people's budget" that aimed to help the low income group.

He said the one-off assistance of RM500 to households with monthly income of less than RM3,000, would help poor families cope with the rising cost of commodities.

"It's the people's budget that benefits everyone," he said..

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