

**2012 Budget Will Enhance Socio-economic Status Of Rural Community, Says Rafidah Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The 2012 Budget will enhance the socio-economic standing of the rural community as the country moves towards attaining high-income status by 2020, says former international trade and industry minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz.

She said the one-year budget, unveiled today by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, has given a different approach towards improving the rural community's lifestyle.

"All the proposals in the budget will reduce the economic gap between urban and rural communities in terms of competitiveness, economic and overall lifestyle.

"I hope the government will implement the proposals smoothly so that the community will not be left out while Malaysia is enroute to attaining the high-income status, especially in infrastructure development, housing and education segments," she said after Najib tabled the 2012 Budget in Parliament here Friday.

On the overall budget, Rafidah, who is also Kuala Kangsar Member of Parliament, said the one-year plan complimented the Prime Minister's wish to increase the country's competitiveness internationally and regionally, especially during the economic gloom being faced in the West.

"It was a comprehensive and inclusive budget," she added.

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