

**Budget 2012 likely to contain wide range of goodies**  
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**By WONG CHUN WAI**

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysians can expect more good news when [Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak](#) unveils Budget 2012 this afternoon.

Helping the people to cope with the rising cost of living is set to be his priority, based on the many hints he has given over the past few weeks.

In describing it as a "Transformational Budget for all Malaysians", the Prime Minister said in a statement yesterday that there would be a wide range of winners in this year's measured, moderate Budget.

"This Budget will be about the Government delivering on our promise to ensure social justice while keeping our country on the strong economic course that will deliver long-term prosperity for all.



Plenty of goodies: Najib flanked by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah (left) and Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Wan Abdul Aziz Wan Abdullah holding a copy of the Budget 2012 yesterday. — MOHD SAHAR MISNI / The Star

"In line with the guiding principles of 1Malaysia People First, Performance Now, I am totally focused on maintaining economic growth and cutting the deficit, but will never do so at the expense of ordinary citizens.

"This is truly a transformational Budget for all Malaysians, and one that will keep us firmly on the path towards becoming a fully developed high-income nation," he said.

Najib, who is expected to deliver his Budget speech in Parliament at 4pm, said its highlights would include new policies to address the cost of living in difficult times while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to managing the economy.

Sources described Budget 2012 as one that would take into account the uncertainties of the global economy and the measures that have to be taken at various levels.

The speech has been described as an "encompassing" one but officials dismissed suggestions that it was an "election budget" aimed at winning over voters.

"The Budget will set into motion the Government's long-term plans," a source said.

Besides cost of living, the other areas Budget 2012 are expected to address are retirement, the civil service, rural development, affordable homes and education.

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