

**Group laments lack of corporate or income tax cuts**  
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**By MANJIT KAUR**

SEVERAL associations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) feel left out, if not disappointed, after the much awaited budget was announced on Friday.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers Perak branch chairman Datuk Gan Tack Kong said there was nothing much for the sector and there was no mention of any cut in corporate or income tax.

"Thailand has proposed a cut in such taxes and I hope Malaysia will do the same," he said.

On the increase for employers' EPF contribution from 12% to 13%, Gan said the EPF stood to gain RM1.5bil a year while the employers have to bear the burden.

Multinational companies with a workforce of between 5,000 and 6,000 workers would be the most affected, he added.

Telco Traders Association president Steven Ng, who echoed Gan's disappointment over the no tax cut said: "Our tax bracket is still high. This may be a reason why investors shy away from investing in the country."

Nevertheless, Ng said the budget was generally good news for the man on the street.

Perak Association for the Intellectually Disabled president Datuk Dr Yeoh Beng San said more attention should be given to the disabled.

"Associations and NGOs dealing with the disabled deserve more allowances. However, the group was omitted in this budget," Dr Yeoh lamented,

Meanwhile, Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah said the budget's focus was on the people's current needs though some people, particularly the opposition, might label it an election manifesto budget.

"We have the government, economy and political transformation and we have included rural transformation in this budget.

"With this four transformations in place, we are complete in terms of a transformation process which every country needs to undergo," he told reporters after presenting land titles to residents of Lot Jalan Datuk at Kampung Manjoi in Ipoh on Saturday.

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