

**Tackling Rising Cost Of Living Will Continue To Be Main Agenda - Muhyiddin
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By Jailani Hassan**

LABUAN, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- The rising cost of living will continue to be the main agenda to be addressed in line with government objectives of uplifting the standard of living of the people.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the government had drawn plans to see its objective was achievable.

He said the recent budget tabled by the prime minister, focusing on the standard of living of the people and easing the people's financial burden, showed the ruling government's caring attitude.

"However, despite the various efforts of the government in bringing development to the people over the years, we are still in a quandary of being accused as a liar by the opposition," he said at a meet-the-people session in Kampung Sungai Labu here today.

Muhyiddin said the government was not worried about the accusation as the people at large were fully aware of the Barisan Nasional-led government's performance.

He also said that unlike other countries, Malaysia was still considered a caring nation of having financial assistance schemes for its people.

He was referring to the financial aid to students, as well as households earning below RM3,000, as part of efforts to help ease the financial burden of the people.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said the government was prepared to assist to help realise the Labuan people's aspirations to see continuous development on the island.

From my visit to the island, I can see there is still much to be explored. The island has the potential to be developed further, he said, adding that he had directed the federal territories and urban well-being ministry and the Labuan Corporation to work together to identify areas for development and sectors to be aggressively promoted.

We want this to be carried out soon to help the government ease the people's burden and at the same time, uplift their standard of living.

"We are not spared from the escalating cost of living being faced globally...but we are still fortunate as the inflation rate remains low, he said in his day-long visit to Labuan.

He reminded the people to fully explore the natural resources to increase food production in their respective areas.

This message also goes to the people of Labuan. We must increase food production as the island largely depends on food imports over the years. We must now focus on crops (vegetable planting) and the fisheries sector, and develop the sectors for export, said Muhyiddin.

Earlier, he presented a RM1.3 million allocation to the Labuan Education Department to improve the schools basic infrastructure.

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