

**BUDGET: Budget 2013 A Boon For Sabah, Sarawak - Leaders
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The Budget 2013's emphasis on the welfare of the people in Sabah and Sarawak dispels claims by the opposition that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government is treating the people in the two states as 'stepchildren', according to leaders in the two states.

In fact, the budget would not only spur the economy of the people in both states to a higher level but also help them to enhance their livelihood for a better future, they said.

Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) president Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui said the budget would help to lower the price of goods with the allocation by the government to subsidise transportation costs of essential items in Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

"Education-wise, the allocation to upgrade schools should be lauded, considering that the facilities in some schools, students' hostels and teachers' quarters in the interior of Sarawak are of lower standard," said the Energy, Green Technology and Water minister.

Meanwhile, United Sabah People's Party (PBRS) president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup welcomed the expansion of the 1Malaysia People's Shop (KR1M) to Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

"Besides the KRIM, the standardisation of prices and provision of transportation subsidy will benefit the people of Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan especially those in the interior.

"In this respect, I hope the people will appreciate and welcome the government's efforts to enhance their living standard," said the Natural Resources and Environment deputy minister.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu PBB youth chief Datuk Fadillah Yusof said the budget proved the government's earnestness in its struggle for the people, particularly in the allocation of RM386 million to standardise the price of goods in Sabah dan Sarawak.

"The budget focuses on every strata of society especially by reducing the burden of the people in the interior through rural development, basic infrastructure and stabilising the price of essential goods," said the Science, Technology and Innovation deputy minister.

Meanwhile, Kalabakan MP Datuk Seri Abdul Ghapur Salleh said the price of goods in Sabah was higher by 30 to 50 percent compared to the peninsula because of higher logistics cost.

"So when it was announced that the transportation cost for goods in both states (Sabah dan Sarawak) would be subsidised by the government, it is a relief for the people.

"That means, items that are only found in the towns can also be available to residents living in the interior," he said.

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