

No Room For Opposition To Criticise 2013 Budget
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SEREMBAN, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- The opposition will not have the opportunity to criticise the 2013 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday as it looks after the interests of all strata of society.

Information, Communications and Culture minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said instead the budget would move the people to have greater appreciation for the ruling government and country.

"I urge Malaysians to open up their eyes and listen closely so that they can give recognition to the deeds (of the government) in fulfilling its promises," he said.

He was speaking to reporters at the launching of the 'Promises Fulfilled Tour' programme by the Prime Minister at the Paroi Youth and Sports complex, here today.

Also present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

Meanwhile, Works Minister Datuk Seri Shaziman Abu Mansor said he was convinced the construction industry would see a strategic growth next year due to the multiple allocations in the budget.

He expected an increase in the volume of projects that would encourage more participation by contractors.

"Malaysia's construction industry has a brighter future because a lot of projects, particularly under the Economic Transformation Programmes, are still on-going since last year," he said.

Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad said Felda would collaborate with state governments in search for available land to develop 20,000 houses for its new generation which had been allocated in the budget.

"We are ready, we have available land, the only thing is we just want to identify which land are suitable and we will hold a discussions with the state governments and build pre-fabricated houses," he said.

Meanwhile in Kuala Lumpur, Information, Communications and Culture deputy minister Datuk Maglin Dennis D'Cruz said the RM150 million budget would encourage the younger generation to be informative and knowledgeable with the establishment of 100 internet centres in public housing schemes.

"Rural areas in Sabah and Sarawak already have their Wifi villages. What the Prime Minister announced yesterday, is an additional allocation to all levels of the society," he said.

He said with the allocation of a RM200 rebate for 3G smartphones for youths aged 21 to 30, it showed the government's support for the younger generation to be technology savvy and never to be left behind.

Maglin was speaking to Bernama when met at the launching of the 13th National Youth Taekwondo Championship at Cheras badminton stadium, here today.

The two-day championship saw 600 participants from 31 Teakwondo associations and clubs in the 10-13 years old and 14-17 years old categories beginning today, said Malaysia Teakwondo Association (TM) technical director, R.Dhanaraj.

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