

'Pakatan plan will cause RM7.2b to be taken out of nation yearly'
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KUALA LUMPUR: The so-called "alternative 2013 Budget" of the opposition coalition would have caused RM7.2 billion to be transferred out of the country every year if implemented.

MCA Young Professionals Bureau chairman Datuk Chua Tee Yong said this would happen if the opposition increased the minimum wage from the current RM900 to RM1,100 per month.

"We have three million foreign workers in Malaysia. If we give each of them an additional RM200 a month, RM7.2 billion would be spent on these foreign workers annually," he said in a statement yesterday.

"The RM7.2 billion will be an outflow, as the money would be transferred out of Malaysia and into the foreign workers' respective countries."

Chua said that the RM7.2 billion was twice the amount spent on the government's current Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia 2.0 programme.

"Is that what the Pakatan Rakyat call 'benefits for the rakyat'? Their budget is just a political shout-out as there is no practicality in it."

Chua questioned the opposition's promise that it would reduce the price of petrol should the coalition come to power.

"However, such an important policy was not recorded in their budget. How would they be able to reduce the price of petrol if they did not include calculations?"

Chua also criticised the opposition coalition for promising to do away with tolls on highways despite failing to state it in the alternative budget.

"In their budget, it is mentioned that they would review toll prices, but there was nothing in the budget that promised toll abolishment."

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