

**Putrajaya efforts to reduce living costs produce results, says PM –
Bernama
The Malaysian Insider
April 28, 2015**

The increasing cost of living is one of the main areas of focus of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said that efforts to minimise the cost-of-living hikes were specifically underlined in the seven National Key Result Areas (NKRA) under the Government Transformation Programme (GTP).

The prime minister said over the first five years of GTP implementation, which began in 2010, the government had set up 307 1Malaysia Clinics throughout the country, covering urban and rural areas.

"Today, I can report with satisfaction and relief that the health service offered to the people has received exceptional response and has seen more than 15.8 million cases registered for treatment, with a payment of only RM1.

"For example, Karupaya Muthukanoo, from Pandamaran, Klang, who, in his feedback about the programme, said that the 1Malaysia Clinic was a blessing and a facility which he, as a Malaysian, can directly enjoy," Najib said when launching the 2014 GTP and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) Report in Kuala Lumpur tonight.

The prime minister said with the services provided by the 1Malaysia Clinic, thousands of patients especially in the cities, including Karupaya himself, no longer needed to worry about the constraints of time and money in getting basic medical treatment.

"For this, let us all be grateful, and congratulate the health workers and nurses at the 1Malaysia Clinic," he said.

Najib said under the NKRA, the government had also introduced the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M).

"Let me share the story of Puan Dayah Mamut, 41 years old, from the longhouse in Betong, Sarawak. She is a single mother who is now working as a security guard at a school and has four children aged between 11 and 20 years.

"Here, as a leader, I am happy to say that anyone can say what they like and think. But for individual citizens like Puan Dayah, BR1M has really helped in alleviating her burden to support her schooling children.

"Despite what has been said, at least the government has tried its best to provide direct assistance to seven million households and individuals like Puan Dayah, who need it, regardless of political background."

At the same time, said the prime minister, since 2010, 161 1Malaysia People's Shops

had been set up throughout the country.

Through the shops, Najib said 272 1Malaysia products were sold at a price 15% to 30% cheaper than the normal market price.

Meanwhile, under the NKRA relating to improving the standard of living for low-income households, he said almost 170,000 poor people could now live more comfortably through the 1Azam programme, which eradicates poverty and emphasises on self-development and financial skills.

"We are also proud of the achievements of the 1Azam programme, which has helped almost 65,000 families from the target group," he said. – Bernama, April 28, 2015.

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