

**Budget 2016 to focus on growth, says Najib**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he would unveil initiatives to sustain Malaysia's economic growth during the Budget 2016 announcement on Friday.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said this via Twitter today.

"Several measures to ensure economic growth stays on a strong and stable path will be announced in Budget 2016," Najib said.

According to Bank Negara Malaysia, the economy, as measured by gross domestic product, grew 4.9% in the second quarter of 2015 from a year earlier.

This compared with the 5.6% expansion in Q1.

Ahead of the Budget 2016 announcement, the government had earlier undertaken a survey to find out what Malaysians hoped for.

Cost of living, urban housing and livelihood, and education topped the list of concerns, according to the survey.

The survey involved 15 categories. These included economic development, employment, besides youth and sports.

Budget 2016 will be closely watched as it will test policymakers' commitment to fiscal discipline amid the pressing need to spend to deliver economic results.

The Edge Malaysia business and investment weekly (Edge Weekly), quoting economists, reported in its October 12 to 18 issue that the task to balance an expanded budget while maintaining financial prudence would be challenging.

"First, government revenue has to meet government spending. Then, there is the overarching need for fiscal discipline for Budget 2016. This means that it has to spend efficiently to achieve the desired fiscal outcomes.

"At this juncture, I would prefer the government to preserve fiscal ammunition when economic pressures are much worse," Edge Weekly quoted Malaysia University of Science and Technology business school dean Dr Yeah Kim Leng as saying. – The Edge Markets, October 20, 2015.

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