

**BUDGET: Individual Taxi Permits, RM5,000 Grant For Eligible Taxi Drivers - Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- About 12,000 qualified taxi drivers who have ended their leasing contract with taxi companies will benefit from the government's announcement of a RM5,000 grant to purchase new vehicles and offer for individual taxi permits.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak when tabling the 2017 Budget announced a grant of RM5,000 to purchase new vehicles and offer individual taxi permits through an allocation of RM60 million to safeguard the welfare of taxi drivers.

"The government is concerned with the welfare of taxi drivers and aware of their grievances and predicament," he said when tabling the 2017 Budget in Dewan Rakyat, here today.

He said currently most taxi drivers are not insured, therefore, the government would introduce the Social Security Organization Scheme (SOCSO) to individual drivers with a monthly income of up to RM3,000 through the allocation.

"Under this scheme, taxi drivers are required to contribute between RM157m and RM443 per annum which only RM13.08 a month. Should an accident occur while working, they are eligible to claim from SOCSO.

"For example, a taxi driver who lost permanent ability will receive a lump sum of between RM43,000 and RM121,000 and a monthly payment of RM1,281 to RM2,624 for life. In the event of death, the next of kin shall receive Defendant's Benefit at a rate of RM945 to RM2,655 per month," he said.

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