

BUDGET 2017: Government Continues To Improve Living Standard of the People
Bernama
Oct 21, 2016

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- The government continues to strive to improve the living standard of the people of various races, including ethnic groups, in the country by providing allocation for various projects involving development, education and economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when tabling the 2017 Budget, said RM222 million would be allocated for water treatment project in 42 Orang Asli villages, economic and entrepreneurship development programmes, as well as Village Resettlement between Sungai Ruil in the Cameron Highlands, Pahang.

He said for the Native Customary Rights, RM20 million would be allocated for land survey in Sabah and RM30 million in Sarawak.

The government, he said, was always concerned with the needs of the Chinese and Indian communities.

In this regard, he said, a sum of RM50 million each would be allocated for development of Chinese new villages and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) loans through Koperasi Jaya Diri Malaysia Bhd (KOJADI).

"A sum of RM20 million will also be allocated for microcredit loans under the supervision of the Malaysian Chinese Women Entrepreneurs Foundation," he added.

The prime minister said RM20 million would be channeled to the 1Malaysia Hawkers and Petty Traders Foundation to provide loans to the Chinese hawker community.

For the Malaysian Indian community, he said, RM50 million was allocated for programmes to increase capacity and income, as well as RM150 million for business financing programmes through the National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (TEKUN) and Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM).

He said the government would also expand pre-school programme to 50 national-type Tamil schools, involving an allocation of RM10 million.

"I want to make a policy statement that the government is committed to mainstream programmes to safeguard and empower the Malaysian Indians in the national development agenda," he added.

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