

Budget 2017: RM1.2 Billion for Sports Development
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- The sports sector also received the government's attention with an allocation of RM1.2 billion for sports development programmes next year.

Tabling the 2017 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the allocation included RM450 million, specifically to host the 29th SEA Games and 9th Asean Para Games.

In addition, a sum of RM70 million has also been allocated for the Elite Sports Podium Development Programme to prepare athletes for international sports events.

"We are extremely proud of our national Olympic and Paralympic contingents. For the first time, our national anthem, Negaraku, was played in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Brazil (three gold medal wins in Paralympics).

"The Olympic contingent won four silver medals and one bronze at the Olympic Games. Congratulations to our national heroes," said Najib.

During the tabling of the Budget, the Rio Paralympic Games medalists who were present in parliament also received words of appreciation from Najib and shouts of applause from the Parliamentarians for their successes.

Najib also announced an allocation of RM54 million for Development Programmes involving Athletes Preparation Programmes and the Paralympic Athlete Preparation Programmes.

He also announced that RM50 million had been allocated for the construction of a Football Academy phase II in Gambang, Pahang and RM122 million for the constructing and upgrading of sports facilities, including State Youth and Sports Complexes, the 1Malaysia Futsal Complex and Community Sports Complexes.

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