

Najib: Affordable houses, higher income for B40 group

KUALA LUMPUR — Budget 2016, to be tabled next Friday, will ensure the bottom 40 per cent (B40) household income group continues to have opportunities for and access to higher education and skills training so that they have stable and better jobs, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said the Budget would also make provisions for the households to enjoy affordable houses, higher income, acquisition of wealth and quality of life.

“Budget 2016 is important because of the challenging global economic situation,” he said.

“It cannot be denied the global economic uncertainty we see today has more or less jeopardised our economy and raised concerns among certain sections of society.

“In this context, the B40 households are most easily affected and in need of job stability and higher income to meet the costs of education, house ownership and cost of living,” he said in a post on his blog, *NajibRazak.com*.

However, he said, the government had to ensure the capital economy remained active to generate the people’s economy, and the two economies had to be enhanced to bring the nation to the level of high-income countries by 2020.

Najib also said he would submit ideas provided by the people through the #Budget2016 campaign to the Finance Ministry for comprehensive evaluation.

Many of the people who provided suggestions during the campaign, held from Sept

1 to 18, urged the government to help ease the burden of daily expenses, particularly of those in the low-income group.

“Many also expressed concern over the high cost of houses, which was beyond their means.

“There were also suggestions for the government to not only improve the public transportation network in Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley but also invest in new KTM or LRT projects in urban centres in other states.”

Najib said in a survey carried out on his blog from Sept 18 to Oct 1, cost of living, housing and quality of life in cities, and education were the three most important categories selected by the people in the composition of Budget 2016. — Bernama

