



AT THE DEWAN RAKYAT

Budget 2016 passed without changes

KUALA LUMPUR — The Dewan Rakyat yesterday approved Budget 2016 without amendment after more than four weeks of marathon debates.

The Budget was passed by a majority voice vote at about 10.30pm, with the Opposition opting not to push for a bloc vote after having failed to vote it out at the policy stage.

On Oct 23, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak tabled a RM267.2 billion Budget for 2016, comprising RM215.2 billion for the federal government's operating expenditure and RM52 billion in development expenditure.

The figure is a slight increase from the RM260.7 billion allocated for this year's Budget.

When tabling Budget 2016, Najib announced a raft of policies that catered to demographics crucial to Barisan Nasional — low income earners, the youth, and rural voters in Sabah and Sarawak, which is facing state elections next year.

He announced an increase of RM50 for 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) recipients, with households with a monthly income of RM3,000 and below to receive RM1,000, and households earning between RM3,001 and RM4,000 monthly getting RM800.

Single individuals aged 21 and above with a monthly income not exceeding RM2,000 would receive assistance of RM400, up from RM350.

Budget 2016 also includes a special assistance of RM500 to the 1.6 million-strong civil service.