

HELP *on the* WAY

Budget 2016 to address concerns of LOW-INCOME group, says Najib

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PETALING JAYA: Budget 2016 will ensure that low-income households – the bottom 40% (B40) – can enjoy affordable houses, higher income and better quality of life in the face of global economic uncertainties.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib

Abdul Razak, in his blog yesterday, said the budget, to be tabled on Oct 23, will continue to provide opportunities for higher education and skills training so that they have stable and better jobs.

“Budget 2016 is important because of the most challenging global economic situation. It cannot be denied that the global economic uncertainty we see today has more or less jeopardised the

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BERNAMAPIX

Najib with Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi at the Asean Data Incubator Programme in Perdana Putra yesterday.

B40 households most easily affected

► **FROM FRONT PAGE**

Malaysian economic situation and raised concerns among certain sections of society.

“In this context, the B40 households are the 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.

Najib said he would submit ideas from the people, obtained through crowd-sourcing for the Budget 2016 campaign, to the Finance Ministry for comprehensive evaluation.

Many of those who provided suggestions during the campaign, held from Sept 1 to 18, had asked the government to help ease their daily burden, particularly of those in the low-income group.

“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 the urban centres in the other states,” he said.

Meanwhile, in his opening remarks at the 27th MSC Malaysia Implementation Council Meeting in Putrajaya, Najib said there is a growing need for the nation to address the issue of talent gap in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

For Malaysia to build a vibrant digital economy, he said it is critical to develop world-class ICT talent to meet growing technological demand and digital infrastructure for seamless connectivity.

“It is imperative for Malaysian youth to be digitally savvy and in this digital era, more emphasis is needed to give our students a head start in digital literacy skills and computational thinking such as coding and programming.