

Wishlist for Budget 2017

> Public wants issues such as employment, cost of living, GST to be tackled

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PETALING JAYA: The public have asked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak to tackle issues involving employment, taxes, culture and environment when addressing Parliament during the tabling of Budget 2017 next month.

This follows the thousands of Malaysians who submitted various ideas on <https://bajet2017.najibrazak.com> since Sept 5 until yesterday.

The most popular suggestion was the call for contract staff in the civil service to be absorbed and given permanent employment.

Nieyla Nadia suggested that contract staff be absorbed into the civil service after serving a minimum period of five years.

"To deal with the rising cost of living, at least a one-month bonus would be very useful," posted Scharina Sharifin.

On matters regarding taxes, Lim Teong Lee suggested the

government to look into reducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from the present 6% to 3% if feasible, in order to minimise the impact on law-abiding businessmen and end-users.

"At the same time, the current threshold of RM500,000 can also be reduced to RM250,000, so that there will be no more excuses for non-GST registration, as businesses with annual turnover of RM250,000 will be considered as small scale," he posted.

On issues involving culture, Alex Ong suggested that the Finance Ministry support performing arts education and promotion.

On the environment, Lily Teo mooted that import taxes for green, hybrid and electric cars be reduced to encourage more people to buy such vehicles to reduce carbon footprints and preserve the environment.

Najib is expected to table Budget 2017 on Oct 21.