

Give priority to affordable homes and jobs

PETALING JAYA — Affordable housing and employment opportunities were concerns raised by the rakyat in an online poll urging the government to consider their suggestions for Budget 2017.

You too can contribute your idea to Budget 2017 by visiting <https://bajet2017.najibrazak.com/> and submitting your views in categories including cost of living, healthcare, housing and urban living, transportation and infrastructure.

The following are what three Malaysians are wishing for in Budget 2017.

Nur Shahirah Zakaria, student, 19, Ampang

"My wish is affordable housing schemes as my mum is a single mother,



renting a place in Pandan Perdana, Ampang. The rental always goes up, requiring my mother to do odd-jobs besides her main job to earn the extra money to support the family and to pay for my college fees. A better 2017 for me will be more support from the government to assist single mothers financially so that we too can live a comfortable life."

Quek Yew Aun, student, 24, Petaling Jaya

"More job opportunities for fresh graduates, as a lot of colleges and universities are offering degrees, but upon graduating, fresh graduates either work in a different field or are left unemployed. The government should allocate more



job opportunities for fresh grads or at least have a plan on where to place them temporarily before they can start working on jobs they studied for. It will be helpful if private and government industries visit colleges and universities and provide insights about their companies and offer internship programmes, which will secure the students' future upon completing their studies."

Ng Kee Chung

"Establish a people's canteen — a hawker centre selling a variety of dishes but cheaper than the market price. The aim is to encourage hawkers or restaurateurs to not profit too much while maintaining competitiveness at a considerable level. Hawkers operating at the people's canteen should be given incentives by the government such as tax exemption, easier

licence approvals or discounts on raw food items." (Comment taken from the prime minister's budget website).

