

# New Straits Times - Irwan: 2018 Budget To Lay Groundwork For TN50

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## CORE ELEMENT

### Irwan: 2018 Budget to lay groundwork for TN50

**CYBERJAYA:** The 2018 Budget will lay the groundwork to put Malaysia on track to achieve the goals of the 2050 National Transformation (TN50) programme.

Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said TN50 would be one of the core elements in next year's budget.

"We cannot wait until 2050 to get things done. We have to start now, as the prime minister is targeting (to see things start to happen) sometime in 2018," he said after a luncheon in conjunction with Cyberjaya's 20th Anniversary at Cyberview Resort.

He said the budget would build TN50's foundation in areas such

as education, housing, social aspects and others.

Asked if there would be significant differences between next year's budget and the ones before, Irwan said some basic things, like operating and developmental expenditure, would remain. He said some new elements would be announced, especially ones linked to TN50.

On this year's budget, Irwan said things were moving as planned, and due to higher oil prices, the government had funds to spare.

"We had ask them (ministries and government agencies) to spend less and make some savings.

"But now, there is fiscal space for us to provide more allocations to some ministries, like Education and Defence."

Irwan said more effort should be made to turn Asia into a birthplace of new technologies.

This was especially so on the home front, he said, adding that Malaysians must become technology creators.

He said Malaysia was keen to work with India in setting up a

design lab here, with a three-month deadline for Cyberview.

"If possible, I want the lab to be set up by next year and start student intake."

Cyberview, a government-owned company, is in charge of elevating Cyberjaya to a global technology hub. Setia Haruman Sdn Bhd is the master developer of Cyberjaya.

Setia Haruman executive chairman Ahmad Khalif Mustapha Kamal said Cyberjaya had positioned itself to become a fast-growing area in technology development with facilities for any company to set up shop.

Facilities include Internet speed of one gigabyte a second.



Tan Sri Dr  
Mohd Irwan  
Serigar  
Abdullah