

Malaysia

Parliament approves Budget 2016

BY JOSEPH SIPALAN
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File picture shows Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak tabling the 2016 budget in Parliament on October 23, 2015. — Picture by Yusof Mat Isa

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 — The Dewan Rakyat today voted through Budget 2016 without amendment, after over four weeks of marathon debates.

The Budget was passed on a majority voice vote at around 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 October 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 late in October, the prime minister announced a raft of policies that catered to demographics crucial to the ruling bloc: low income earners, the youth and rural voters in Sabah and Sarawak, which is facing state elections next year.

Najib announced an increase of RM50 for 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) cash aid 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.

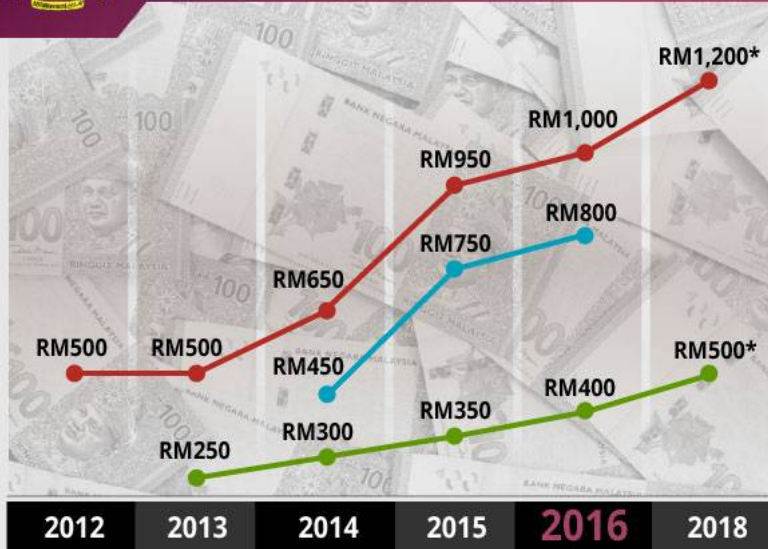
Single individuals aged 21 and above with a monthly income not exceeding RM2,000 would receive assistance of RM400, up from RM350.

Budget 2016 also includes a special assistance of RM500 to the 1.6 million-strong civil service, while the public sector will have a minimum starting salary of RM1,200 a month which will benefit 60,000 civil servants on top of improving 252 schemes of service, which will benefit 406,000 civil servants. The new policy is expected to cost the government RM1 billion.

Some RM26 billion has also been allocated for programmes in Sabah and Sarawak together with the promise of zero toll for the new Pan Borneo Highway.



PUTRAJAYA'S ANNUAL CASH AID BANTUAN RAKYAT 1 MALAYSIA (BR1M)



INCOME\ BR1M:

● Household, below RM3,000 ● Household, RM3,001-RM4,000 ● Single adult >21 years old, < RM2,000

* Commitment in Barisan Nasional's Election Manifesto 2013



E-Kasih recipients with income below RM1,000 to get RM1,050 starting from 2016



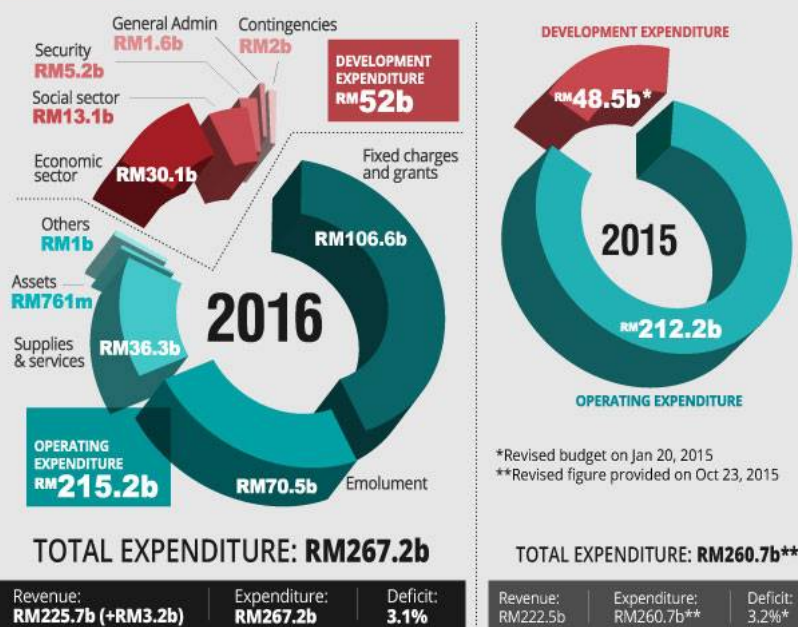
For Death Benefit Scheme introduced in Budget 2015, Budget 2016 maintains RM1,000 aid to families of deceased BR1M receivers

SOURCES: Budget speeches, Barisan Nasional's Election Manifesto 2013, news reports

GRAPHICS: themalaymailonline.com



BREAKDOWN OF BUDGET 2015 AND 2016



SOURCE: Ministry of Finance

GRAPHICS: themalaymailonline.com