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BUDGET SPURS CREATION OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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KUALA LUMPUR

UNIVERSITY students and fresh graduates are confident that the 2021 Budget will help them land jobs.

Muhammad Imran Mohamad Mazlan, 23, lauded the incentives provided by the Perikatan Nasional government for fresh graduates to reskill and upskill themselves.

"The KPT-PACE programme will greatly benefit fresh graduates like me allowing us to learn new skills without worrying about our financial status."

"I graduated as a History major, but I plan to use this initiative to learn IT skills such as website designing and search engine optimisation (SEO)."

"This will make me a more marketable employee, especially in an increasingly digitalised world," he said.

Gan Jian Jie, 24, is confident that the KPT-PACE initiative can equip fresh graduates with technical competence.

"It will certainly encourage fresh graduates to sign up for certification programmes in a specific field of interest so that they stand a better chance of getting employed."

"The hiring incentives under



Tuan Amira Nadhirah
Tuan Yunazri, 24



Muhammad Imran
Mohammad Mazlan, 23



Gan Jian Jie, 24



Wan Muhammad Arif
Asyraf Wan Mohd Zahidi, 19

BELANJAWAN 2021

PenjanaKerjaya will also be a catalyst for companies to hire fresh graduates.

"Since the government will provide hiring subsidies of up to 40 per cent, employers have more resources to provide technical training to their employees."

Wan Muhammad Arif Asyraf Wan Mohd Zahidi, 19, who is currently pursuing a diploma in microbiology in UiTM Kuala Pilah, welcomed the RM50 million allocation for public universities to upgrade their equipment and infrastructure.

"The money should be used to upgrade the old equipment in science labs at public universities. I also hope more electron microscopes and samples of microorganisms can be purchased for our faculty labs," he said.

For Tuan Amira Nadhirah Tuan Yunazri, 24, the budget's focus on upgrading the Malaysian Research and Education Network (MYREN) access line is timely as online learning has become a new norm in education.

"Upgrading the MYREN access

line from only 500Mbps now to 10Gbps will greatly help students have good access to their study materials and do research."

"Universities should take advantage of this allocation to improve the databases, websites, and online systems they provide for the students."

"An excellent Internet access can facilitate high-definition video streams for both students and lecturers, which will improve the quality of online distance learning," the University Malaya law student said.



University graduates are confident the budget will help them land jobs and enable upskilling.

Boon to schools in interior areas

KOTA KINABALU: For teacher Harry Yanto Bikal, the huge allocation of RM50.4 billion for the Education Ministry is proof of the Perikatan Nasional government's commitment to human capital development.

"It is something to cheer about when such a huge allocation is set aside for education, which will also benefit schools in the interior of Sabah and Sarawak."

"This will lift the spirits of teachers and help improve their performance in providing quality education in the country," said the 39-year-old teacher at Sekolah Kebangsaan Longkogungan that lies in the Crocker Range with no road access.

Peterina Peter, 32, said the medical aspect of the budget would help provide the best healthcare for her family.

"For example, the tax relief which will be capped at RM1,000 for medical treatment expenses covering vaccination such as pneumococcal, influenza and Covid-19 is praiseworthy."

"With the Covid-19 virus expected to be around for some time, it is best for my young children to have better protection through available vaccination against other diseases," said the mother of two.

Jeremy Sherween Zabala, 29, said the RM5.1 billion allocation for infrastructure development



Harry Yanto Bikal, 39



Peterina Peter, 32

VOICES



Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat (BPR) will help me get necessities for my daughters when they enter kindergarten and Year 1 next year."

JEREMY SHERWEEN
ZABALA, 29,
freelance journalist, Papar



The budget shows that the government is serious in helping SMEs and this will attract the younger generation to get involved."

MOHD NAHARUDIN ISA, 51,
Naha Power owner,
Johor Baru



The Wage Subsidy Programme, especially for those in the tourism sector, is helpful to budget hotel operators who are struggling because of low demand."

JAROD CHIA,
Johor Chapter of the
Malaysian Budget Hotel
Association chairman



The increase in rubber production incentives from RM150 million to RM300 million is a windfall for us."

MUSTAPA YAAKOB, 67,
rubber tapper, Pasir Mas



The budget shows that the government is focusing on preventive care where people are encouraged to seek treatment and it also takes care of vulnerable groups."

DR AIDALINA MAHMUD,
Public Health Unit, Universiti
Putra Malaysia Teaching
Hospital head



I am happy that the budget focuses on further containment and control of Covid-19, including getting vaccines when they are available."

DATUK DR KULJIT SINGH
Association of Private
Hospitals Malaysia (APHM)
president



The unlimited access monthly travel pass of RM5 per month for my two children really helps me a lot."

ISMALI ALI, 45,
self-employed, Kuala Krai



The government has provided good assistance to SMEs that are most affected by the pandemic."

MAIRINC PATRICK, 38,
salesperson, Penampang



I am relieved to learn that our household will be receiving RM1,200 as announced in the budget as we currently do not have enough to make ends meet."

NURUL NAEISHA AZHAN, 25,
housewife, Kota Baru



Some underserved healthcare sectors are addressed in the budget, for example RM24 million for mental health, violence and injury prevention, and substance abuse programmes."

DR SAFIYA AMARAN
Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin
public health specialist

Allowance increase means a lot to fishermen

GEORGE TOWN: The 2021 Budget, which was tabled in Parliament recently, has brought much cheer to the fishing community.

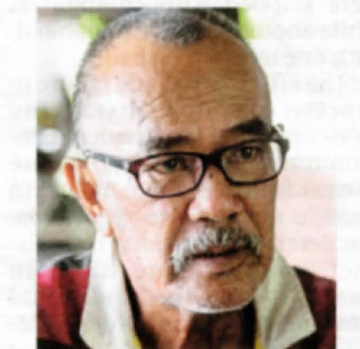
Besides a monthly RM50 increase in allowance to RM300, the government is also providing funds for vessel modernisation and mechanisation for Zones A and B fishermen.

Batu Uban Fisherman Unit chief Abdul Razak Abdullah, 63, said the monthly RM300 allowance would ease their financial burden.

He said their income had been severely impacted as a result of the pandemic, coupled with weather uncertainty.

"The majority of the fishermen here faced about a 50 per cent drop in income. Some had also reported a drop of up to 80 per cent."

"Many of us have bills to pay while others have other commitments. We are grateful indeed



Batu Uban Fisherman Unit chief
Abdul Razak Abdullah, 63



Fisherman Ramli
Baharom, 67



The fishing community is grateful for the attention given to them in the budget.

allowance.

"We are simply overjoyed at the news," said fisherman Sakri Mat, 51.

The father of four has been a fisherman since he was 15 years old. Mat Daud Mohamad, 62, said this was the biggest news from the government for him since he

became a fisherman at 18.

"The allowance is not big but for us, it is very useful especially during this Covid-19 pandemic. We also cannot go fishing now due to the rough seas in the monsoon season," said the father of five when met at the village.

to the government for thinking about us in next year's budget," he said on behalf of fishermen in his unit.

Meanwhile, fisherman Ramli Baharom, 67, said it was good that the government continued to assist the fishing community.

"With the monthly allowance,

coupled with the financial aid some of us received under the Bantuan Prihatin Nasional initiative, we can put food on the table as well as maintain our boats."

For fishermen at Pantai Sabak, the oldest village in Kelantan, the 2021 Budget is much welcomed as it has returned to them their RM300