



Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak arriving to present the 2018 budget at Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Budget highlights

Spending plan:

RM280.25 billion,
a rise of 7.5 per cent from 2017.

Fiscal deficit seen at

2.8 per cent
of gross domestic
product for 2018,
lower than the 3 per cent this year.

RM6.8 billion allocation
for cash aid programme BR1M, benefiting
7 million low-income
people.

One-time payment of

RM1,500 each
for 1.6 million civil servants, and
RM750
for retired civil servants.

Every child born from
Jan 1, 2018 to end-2022,
to get RM200 in a government unit trust.
Plus a new education savings scheme for
500,000 children aged seven
to 12 years, totalling

RM250 million.



Mosque officials and Islamic teachers
will get a one-time payment of

RM1,500 each,

in addition to the

RM588 million monthly
allocation for them.

Village chiefs will also get RM1,500.



RM6.5 billion to help
fishermen, farmers and rubber tappers with
replanting and irrigation upgrades. Includes

RM200 a month
for three months

to padi farmers waiting to harvest their crop.

Income tax cut of **2 percentage points**
for those earning RM20,000 to RM70,000 annually, benefiting
2.3 million taxpayers.



Sabah and Sarawak – Infrastructure works include:

- **RM2 billion** for the Pan-Borneo Highway,
- **RM1 billion** upgrade to communications and broadband
- **RM500 million** for rural roads
- **RM620 million** for electricity.



Upgrade of airports including in
opposition-controlled states of Penang and Kelantan.

Study on bridge joining financial haven
Labuan island to mainland Sabah.