Priority in tackling cost of living

COMMITTED: Govt to ensure livelihood of Malaysians taken care of, says Najib

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In efforts to tackle the rising cost of living, the government is committed to continue implementing and improving measures, ensuring the livelihood of Malaysians are taken care of.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said several measures had been introduced, including providing access to quality education, health services and building affordable homes.

“The issue of cost of living is the main concern in every family, hence, we are committed to address this through continued policies and measures which would help the people.

“Maybe (the measures) are not complete, but there have been many efforts (by the government) that are known and many that are not known. Some are direct; some indirect,” he said, before officiating the Roundtable Discussion on the Rising Cost of Living at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia here yesterday.

Najib said the government had ensured that all Malaysians had access to quality education, assuring that the democratisation of education would be continued to create an intellectual society.

The government, he said, placed high importance on education and, on average, bore 90 per cent of the cost of public higher education in the country.

“Students pay about 10 per cent, and if they could not afford it, we also provide the PTPTN (National Higher Education Fund Corporation) loans and scholarships.

“In our country; the democratisation of education or access to quality education is of importance. Believe that we will continue such policies to develop our nation and to open more doors for students.”

Najib said Malaysia’s healthcare system was the cheapest, with the establishment of IMalaysia clinics and government hospitals.

He said in Malaysia, patients needed to pay only RMI to see a general practitioner and RM5 to see a specialist.

“I am willing to bet that there is no other healthcare system in the world that has a payment of RMI to see a doctor. Medication is free.”

The government had also provided affordable housing, with an aim to build one million units over the next five years, including those targeted for the youth.

Najib said under the Youth Housing Scheme, the government provided RM200 to 20,000 married youths as monthly loan repayments for the first two years, and a 50 per cent stamp duty exemption on loan agreements.

He said there were many other policies and measures introduced by the government to lessen the load, encompassing matters, such as public transportation and financial aid for young entrepreneurs.

Najib received a resolution from a representative of the 200 youths who attended the roundtable discussion. The 24-point resolution had touched on, among others, affordable housing, entrepreneurship for Gen-Y Malaysians, and the enforcement of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011.

The roundtable was organised by the Malaysian Young Thinkers Youth Organisation to find solutions on financial burdens in the country.