

KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 1 OKTOBER 2025

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIME

MUKA : 5

SURAT

Amir Hamzah: 2026 Budget to incorporate reforms in housing, education and healthcare

FIRST UNDER 13TH MALAYSIA PLAN

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KUALA LUMPUR: The 2026 Budget, to be tabled next week, will be the first under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) and will incorporate reforms in housing, education and healthcare.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said the budget, to be presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Oct 10, would set priorities closely aligned with 13MP.

"The focus of the budget is aligned against 13MP and the national economic framework.

"Reforms in housing, education

and healthcare are among the priorities that will be carried into the budget," he said after the Public Economic and Finance Week 2025 here yesterday.

On the possibility of an increase in excise duties or "sin taxes", Amir Hamzah declined to comment, saying details would be announced during the budget's tabling.

He said the government remained on track to bring down the fiscal deficit below three per cent of gross domestic product, backed by subsidy rationalisation

and stronger fiscal governance.

"Our fiscal deficit was 6.1 per cent about four years ago. Last year, it came down to 4.1 per cent. This year, we will try to get to 3.8 per cent. We are on track to achieve the targets that we've set," he said.

Amir Hamzah said savings from subsidy reforms had enabled the government to expand social assistance programmes, such as Sumbangan Asas Rahmah, Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah and Bantuan Warga Emas, while continuing to allocate resources to improve schools and hospitals.