

Tap in major areas to stipulate economic growth - Academician

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KOTA KINABALU: The 2019 National Budget is being planned amid an uncertain global environment in which the world economy is slowing down and world oil price experienced a sharp decline in recent years.

A senior lecturer of Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Dr Rafiq Idris (pic) said this situation is very challenging for the government, having in mind the target to further reduce the Budget deficit.

He hoped that the government will touch on major areas

among others to increase affordable housing, more allocation for health and education, to increase expenditure to stimulate the GDP growth and to provide specific allocation for Sabah.

He said priority for affordable housing should be given to the B40 and M40 groups.

For Sabah specifically, Dr Rafiq expressed the hope that incentives for downstream activities would be introduced as this can further stimulate the state's economy in the long run.

"Furthermore, specific allocation for the improvement of

water and electricity supply in Sabah is necessary," he added.

And, apart from specific budget for Kota Kinabalu International Airport expansion, he said projects such as the Pan Borneo Highway project and Port Transshipment Hub in Sepanggar among others should be continued.

"To fulfil the needs of Malaysians, I believe the government is striving to be prudent and is budgeting for something that is within its affordability.

"We hope the Budget is a relief for all Malaysians," he said.

