PENANG: Penang MCA chairman Wong Kam Hoong said the Budget would help to stimulate economic growth with its wide-ranging incentives for businesses and small and medium scale companies (SMCs).

He said it was a well-balanced and friendly Budget that took into consideration both the macro and micro aspects of the people and the economy.

State DAP chairman Chow Kon Yeow said the Budget reflected the Government’s seriousness in preparing the people to meet the challenges ahead with 27% of the total allocation channelled towards education.

He said the Government’s realisation that the country could no longer depend on Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) had spurred it to look inward towards the local economy.

“The Budget has also placed more emphasis on the development of SMCs, agriculture, tourism and information and communication technology (ICT),” he said.

The state Women’s Development Consultative Committee’s north-east women service centre chairman Datuk Saripah Aminah Syed Mohd described the Budget as people-friendly as it focused on the welfare of single mothers.

“The number of single mothers has been on the rise lately and it is very good that the Government is implementing programmes to help them,” she said, adding that the RM600 salary limit for single mothers to own low-cost houses was reasonable.

Penang Tourists Guides Association chairman Raymond Chan said the increase in the Special Tourism Fund from RM200mil to RM400mil to promote the industry showed that the Government was moving in the right direction.

The Society of Disabled Persons Penang president Tan Kuan Aw said that the RM19mil allocated for the disabled with RM2mil for training the blind in ICT was good news.

“We are happy that we have not been forgotten as whatever is spent on the disabled, especially in training and development, must be considered an investment and not an expenditure,” he said.