

**PM's Hari Raya bash cost RM2.88 million!**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Sept 24, 2013**

**By Koh Jun Lin**

PARLIAMENT RM2.88 million. That is what it cost taxpayers to feed the 80,000 guests who visited the Prime Minister's official residence during his Aidilfitri Open House.

In a written parliamentary reply, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Shahidan Kassim also revealed that the food was prepared by Kuzie Catering, and that the cost came to RM36 per guest.

NONE "I can't give fair comment as to whether this is worthwhile or not," said Seremban MP Anthony Loke, who had asked the question.

"However I want to announce the figure so that the rakyat - especially those who were there to greet the prime minister and his wife before going to eat - know whether the RM36 we paid is worth it."

Loke said holding open house is a good way to bring Malaysians together, but reminded that it involves taxpayers' money and urged the government to take measures to reduce the cost.

He suggested that this can be done by calling for an open tender for catering contracts, or by splitting the contract between several caterers instead of awarding it to just one company.

"This is just one function. Throughout the month of Syawal, every ministry and every department holds open house. Imagine: If we can reduce the cost, millions can be saved through prudent spending," he added.

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Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/241972>