

**Claims of 'dedak' only insult the rakyat, decries Najib**  
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**Alyaa Azhar**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has once again hit out at critics who claim that the BN-led government had given *dedak* (animal feed) to the people in order to win their votes.

This time, Najib said those who claim so, only insulted the rakyat.

“If there are those who say that we won in the (Sarawak state election and the twin by-elections) because we fed the rakyat with *dedak* – that is an insult; an insult to the rakyat,” said the prime minister in his speech at the Putrajaya Federal Territory Nur Ramadan programme tonight.

This, he said, is because the rakyat knew how to make their own decisions and they had done so by choosing a government which prioritised their welfare.

The government, he further rationalised, continued providing aid to the rakyat as it was its duty.

The premier, earlier in his speech, had compared Malaysia with other Muslim countries currently at war, citing Syria and Iraq.

But Malaysia, thankfully, is moving forward because the rakyat had chosen a government which always prioritised their needs, he said.

“They (critics) attack us with all kinds of slander, some half-true, some half-untrue, but our victories in the Sarawak state election as well as the by-elections in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar recently, have proven the rakyat has given its confidence to us.

“That's why I, together with the other cabinet members, don't care what (others) have to say. They can say what they want, but in the end, the rakyat are gaining more confidence in the government,” said Najib to applause from the audience.

The Umno president also gave his assurance that the government will continue giving aid to the rakyat.

This is not the first time that Najib has responded to critics who described recipients of government aid *aspemakan dedak* (eaters of animal feed).

The premier on Thursday said those who did so, only wanted to undermine the aid disbursed.

His number one critic, former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad and those aligned to him, have often accused those supporting Najib as having eaten *dedak*. This insinuates they have been bought over.

The former premier had suffered a blow in his attempt to unseat Najib as apart from winning big in the Sarawak state election last month, BN also retained both its constituencies – Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar – with even bigger majorities.

Pundits say the outcome of the Kuala Kangsar and Sungai Besar polls only cemented Najib's position as the leader of Umno and BN.

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