

PM tells M'sians to spend less on food, cites 'Nasi Lemak Anak Dara'

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BUDGET 2017 Urging Malaysians to be more prudent in managing their household expenses, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak suggested a gastronomic change.

He said people who dined at expensive restaurants could opt for cheaper alternatives without having to compromise on taste.

Suggesting a few outlets, like nasi kandar vanggey in Ipoh, the prime minister also cited 'Nasi Lemak Anak Dara' as an example.

His reference to Nasi Lemak Anak Dara drew raucous response from MPs from both sides of the political divide, with many cheering and laughing when he made the suggestion.

This led to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia having to tell the lawmakers to tone down their noise level.

"We are not the only ones listening to this budget, millions out there want to listen, too," said Pandikar sternly.

Nasi lemak Anak Dara is operated by university graduate Siti Hajjar Ahmad, who decided to open the stall while waiting to secure employment.

"Now there is viral (news) about Nasi Lemak Anak Dara in Shah Alam which is run by a young female graduate from a local university.

"But sadly, she was fined (by the local council)," said the prime minister when tabling Budget 2017 in Parliament this evening.

However, he added that such enterprising youths should be encouraged.

Apart from food, Najib also said parents should purchase less expensive toys for their children in order to cut expenses.

"What the government means by prudent spending is a father or the head of the family must be wise in managing the household finances.

"Meaning, if you were able to buy quite expensive toys for your children previously, with the situation now, you can still buy but it must be according to what you can afford," he said.

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