

DAP MP 'cooks' Najib over switching from rice to quinoa remark
MalaysiaKini.com
22 Februari 2018

A DAP lawmaker has criticised Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak for allegedly being out of touch with the plight of Malaysians even on a gastronomic level.

This is after the prime minister revealed that he has switched from eating rice to South America-produced quinoa.

According to Lim Lip Eng, quinoa is far more expensive than rice and out of reach for most Malaysians.

Malaysiakini's check with Tesco's online shop revealed that a 250-gram packet of Love Earth Organic Quinoa cost RM14.79, which means 10kg would cost RM591.60. However, a 10kg packet of Jasmine Super Special (five percent broken rice) cost RM25.85.

Lim (*photo*) said this episode alone was sufficient grounds not to vote for Najib in the coming general election.

“This kind of national leader does not know that his people are facing economic hardship.

“If ordinary folk can substitute rice with quinoa, then Malaysia's income level must be higher than high-income nations. But this is not the case,” added the Segambut MP.

Lim also urged BN parties not to support Najib because he appeared to be oblivious to the increase in prices of goods and cost of living.

Speaking at the live Budget 2018 sharing session at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in Bangi this morning, Najib said he controls his diet as opposed to exercising in order to keep fit.

“(I) don't (exercise often)... I like to eat. My problem is that I love food, like most Malaysians.

“We love food. I have to control. For example, I don't eat rice, I eat quinoa, my son introduced me to quinoa,” he added.

At this point, the host asked Najib what quinoa is and the prime minister explained that it was the staple food of the Inca people, which is much healthier than rice.

“It comes from Peru, the Inca people planted it 3,000 years ago. It is protein-based, has less carbohydrate and less sugar. So it is better than rice.

“I’m trying to find out if the equivalent to quinoa can be grown in Malaysia,” he added.

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Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/413104>