

**Frusis Lebi To Get Cash Aid Thanks To Caring Malaysians**  
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**By Teo Nie Ching**

Our 7-Day Online Fundraising Campaign for disabled farmer Frusis Lebi started on March 8, 2012 and ended on March 14, 2012 with great success. A total donation amount of RM15,522 was raised for Frusis and his family.

A cheque amounting to RM15,522 dated March 20, 2012 has been issued to "FRUSIS ANAK LEBI" and the cheque will be handed over to DAP Sarawak which will then channel the funds to Frusis. \*

During election season, both sides of the political divide will be engaged in epic battles, whether for the seats or for the mandate to lead the government. However, political power and control does not give one the right to operate at his/her own whim and fancy; rather such power comes with the grave responsibility of looking after the public's well-being and their livelihoods.

An individual is entitled to his or her own political views or preferences, be it during election or non-election season. If we are to encourage the public to be more attuned to political developments in the country and participate in debate on policy matters that affect their daily lives, then it makes sense that individuals would profess his or her own political affiliation and inclination.

Regardless of the outcome, all political parties must set aside their political differences after the election, and serve the nation and public to the best of their abilities.

Sadly, it's been almost a year after the Sarawak state election and BN leaders still have not sought to address their weakness and examine the reasons for the significant 8% decrease in BN votes but instead victimised voters who supported Pakatan Rakyat openly.

In a bizarre move, Assistant Minister for Agriculture (Research and Marketing) Mong Dagang directed the Federal Agriculture Department to stop disabled farmer Frusis Lebi's farming subsidy because he displayed an opposition party's flag outside his house during the Sarawak state election.

The Assistant Minister's action is unacceptable and intolerable. Mong Dangang obviously has forgotten that as an Assistant Minister, his job was to look after the welfare of all Sarawakians. Every person who fulfils the criteria set by the authorities is entitled to receive aid from the government.

Going by his twisted logic that Pakatan Rakyat supporters do not deserve government subsidies, and given that subsidy funds are derived from taxes paid by the people including Pakatan Rakyat supporters, should PR supporters stop paying taxes?

In sympathy with Frusis Lebi, DAP then started a 7-day online fundraising campaign for him on 8 March which was also International Women's Day.

The public support has far exceeded our expectations because we never took this fundraising campaign to the streets and did not publicise the donation drive to any great extent. The publicity was mainly done via Facebook. The fact that we raised over RM10,000 within 4 days is indeed encouraging and uplifting.

This proves that ordinary Malaysians are more caring towards the poor and needy than the BN administration. This also proves that although they have been labelled as "hooligans", most Internet users are logical and rational. They know how to make use of FB constructively and will participate in good causes that benefit other fellow Malaysians.

A big and heartfelt thank you to those who have supported this online campaign generously!

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\* The author appended a copy of the bank statement of the designated account

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