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Let the people make their own judgment, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: The people can make their own judgment without listening to a debate, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

Referring to Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's challenge to an open debate, he said it would have no outcome.

While he did not reject the offer outright, the Prime Minister questioned the point of having a public debate.

Instead, he said both Barisan Nasional and Pakatan Rakyat should present their respec-

tive economic policies for the people to evaluate and decide for themselves.

"If we want to have a debate, there must be an outcome. I don't see any outcome (in this debate challenge). What's important is the public's opinion and their evaluation," Najib told reporters yesterday when asked if he would take up Anwar's challenge to an open debate.

Anwar had challenged the Prime Minister to a debate next week over his comments that

Pakatan's goals could lead the nation to bankruptcy.

Asked on Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin's challenge to Anwar to a debate on the economy, the Prime Minister said: "I will not stop him."

Khairy had challenged Anwar to debate with him instead of the Prime Minister, saying that it was sufficient for the Opposition to engage in a debate with him as "Anwar is not at the same level with Najib".