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No restriction on 24-hour restaurants, says Najib

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NO CHANGE: Existing operating hours are convenient to many, says PM

HANA NAZ HARUN
 KUALA LUMPUR
 news@nst.com.my

THE government has decided to maintain the operating hours of all 24-hour restaurants and eateries so that they can continue providing convenience to their customers.

The decision was also made to show that the government should not be seen as restricting the operating hours for traders, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

All restaurants that operated round-the-clock would be allowed to operate as usual as it was convenient and comfortable to many people.

"The existing operating hours are convenient to many. The operators' income depends on these hours.

"If we were to restrict their operating hours, it would cause difficulties to them and their patrons," he said after distributing *bubur lambuk* to people outside Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru here yesterday.

On Thursday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Shahidan Kassim said a proposal had been sent to the government to clamp down on 24-hour restaurants.

It was alleged that such eateries were the cause of social ills.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak distributing 'bubur lambuk' to people at Masjid Jamek Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

The suggestion came from Shahidan. Najib said, adding that the government had decided that restaurants would be allowed to operate without closing.

"That was (Shahidan's) suggestion and view, but the government has already made a decision and it

would not alter (the system) that is currently in place."

Present was Titiwangsa member of parliament Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani.

Earlier, Najib joined a congregation for Asar prayers.

On a separate matter, Najib ex-

pressed hope that Masjid Jamek would become a landmark of Kampung Baru once renovations had been completed.

"I see that people who come here to pray are satisfied with the ongoing renovation works at Masjid Jamek.

"I Have prayed here twice together with the congregation and it is far more comfortable, spacious and beautiful than before.

"It is my hope that this mosque will become the landmark here in the Kampung Baru redevelopment project."