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PM: Listen to what the experts say

Opposition only knows how to criticise, says Najib

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KUALA KANGSAR: The people should trust the financial experts and not the Opposition when it comes to commenting on the country's economic outlook.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Opposition only knew how to talk and criticise the country's supposed uncontrollable debt but failed to show accurate facts.

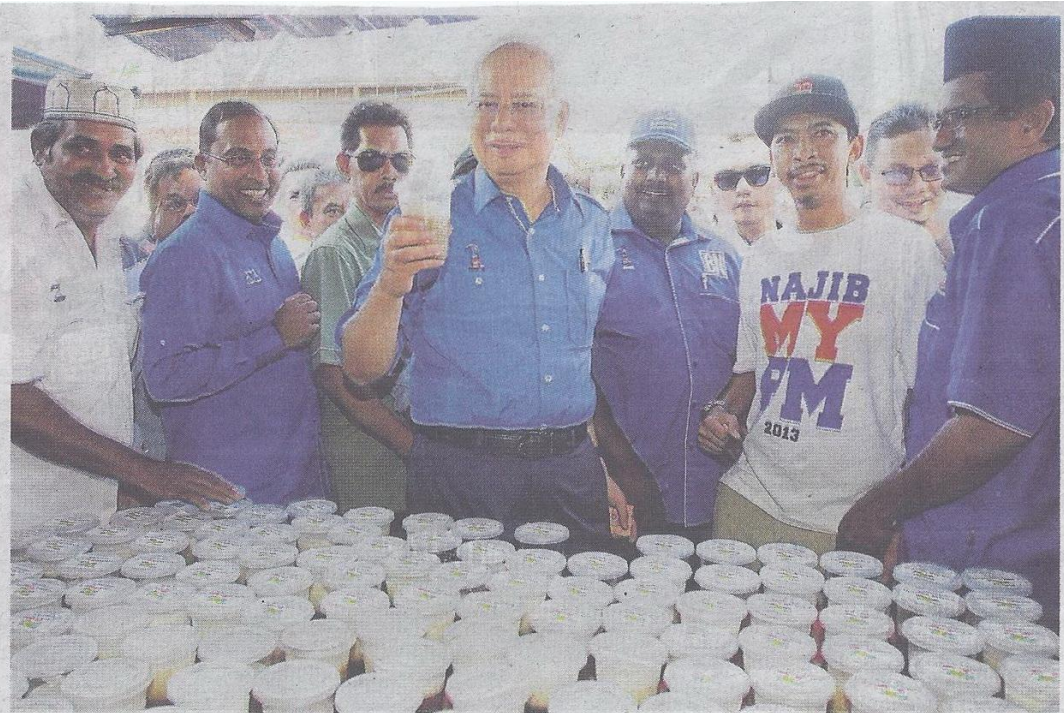
"The nation's debt is at a manageable level. There are other countries with higher debts than us like the United States, Japan and even Singapore," he said during an incentive presentation ceremony organised by the Rural and Regional Development and Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) at the Dewan Jubli here yesterday.

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Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak

"Don't listen to what they say. Listen to what the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund says," the Prime Minister said. "They all say the country's economy is well managed."

He said the Government had a clear agenda and plan for the country.



Looks good, tastes good: Najib, accompanied by Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (second left), visiting a stall selling cendol during a walkabout at Bazaar Ramadan in Manong before the incentive presentation ceremony in Kuala Kangsar.

"Our plans are systematic and precise. These are not just mere promises and empty talk but ones we will fulfil," he said.

During the presentation ceremony, Najib announced that about RM194mil would be disbursed to rubber estate smallholders and rubber tappers in light of the fall in rubber prices.

The incentive would be distributed to 307,770 smallholders and 80,000 rubber tappers nationwide, with each receiving RM500.

At a press conference later, Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the incentive would only be given to those registered with Risda, including rubber tappers who did not

own any estates and smallholders that operated and tapped the rubber themselves.

"This is just one of the many incentives by the Government to help ease the burden on the people," he said.

"With Hari Raya around the corner, we hope to distribute the money by next week," he said.