

For KR1M, Najib says bad news good for business
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PEKAN, Jan 15 — Pakatan Rakyat's criticism of the Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia was boosting sales at the thrift stores rather than driving away customers, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said in a Bernama Online report today.

"I would like to encourage them (the opposition) to carry on with their criticism," the prime minister was quoted as saying in the report, adding that the criticism would serve to draw more patrons to the outlets.

Najib was not, however, reported to have adduced figures to show the increase in sales attributable to the public criticism by the opposition pact.

PR lawmakers, chiefly DAP's Tony Pua, have been vocal in their disapproval of products sold at the thrift stores operated by Mydin, which also runs a local supermarket chain.

Among others, they have slammed the generic 1 Malaysia-branded products as substandard and non-compliant with Health Ministry labelling standards.

Although earlier defending the KR1M against the attacks, the ministry later ordered the chain and its suppliers to improve labelling practices so as to adhere with legal requirements.

Today, Najib said 85 more KR1M will be opened this year to cater to growing demand nationwide.

"Wherever I go, many people including elected representatives ask for KR1M in their areas," the prime minister said. "Projects such as these are not just rhetoric but reality with proven success."

He added that the KR1M outlet in his Pekan constituency will be the nation's largest.

Najib launched the first KR1M in June of last year in a bid to counter surging inflation in the country.

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