

**Air government scandals on 1 Malaysia TV, Kit Siang dares Najib**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 — Lim Kit Siang today dared Datuk Seri Najib Razak to fulfil his promise of solving the country's "information vacuum" by publicising controversies affecting his administration like the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) scandal and Malaysia's low corruption index score.

The DAP veteran said the prime minister could make good his pledge by airing these stories on the government's new internet protocol television site "1 Malaysia TV" launched yesterday.

"Will Najib demonstrate a change of this information 'blackout' mindset and strategy and use 1 Malaysia TV to break his silence and speak up to give an accounting and perspective as the nation's prime minister on these issues?" he asked in a statement here.

Apart from the NFC scandal and Malaysia's ranking on Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Lim also suggested the prime minister highlight the call by 17 international organisations for Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud to be prosecuted for alleged corruption, The Penang High Court's award of RM225,000 to DAP's Lim Guan Eng against Utusan Malaysia, and the Global Financial Integrity's (GFI) latest report on illicit capital flight here.

"Will 1 Malaysia TV be the solution or the cause of the 'information vacuum' plaguing government credibility?" he asked.

Lim agreed with Najib that Malaysians were forced to turn to alternative news sources due to the information vacuum, but reminded the prime minister that this was largely due to the administration's penchant for blacking out information that could taint its image in the mainstream media.

"We do not have a choice. We have to disseminate fast and accurate information to the rakyat. When there is a vacuum, that vacuum is filled with (information through) other sources, sometimes it is mixed with fairytales, false news and slander," Najib had said yesterday when launching 1 Malaysia TV.

"But these criticisms are equally valid about the official media and, now, 1 Malaysia TV, which is going to repackage the official media on Internet!" Lim argued today.

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