

Political debates not a local norm, says Najib
Malaysian Insider
June 22, 2012
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak has again dismissed the need to square off against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a debate, saying that it was not part of Malaysian culture.

The prime minister said what was important was that his Barisan Nasional (BN) as well as Pakatan Rakyat (PR) were both accorded room to inform voters of their respective election manifestos.

“It is not necessarily (our) culture; you have to look at the situation.

“What is important is that enough access to information,” Najib told reporters here today.

The prime minister said his administration has already pledged to allow more room for PR parties to air their manifestos during the next general election.

Anwar has repeatedly dared Najib to a no-holds barred debate on government policies, but the PM has snubbed every invitation.

There has been a flurry of debates between PR and BN leaders ever since the last general election, most notably one involving Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin and PKR chief strategist Rafizi Ramli.

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