

**Fomca releases consumers' election wishlist**  
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**By Ida Lim**

KUALA LUMPUR, June 29 — A consumer group today launched a wishlist of election issues that it hoped will be taken up by those planning to contest in national polls due within the year.

The Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) booklet lists a host of consumer issues ranging from healthcare to product safety, along with proposals from the group.

"In a national survey undertaken by Fomca... we found that the most important concern of all consumers is the increasing prices of food and essential goods. The second biggest concern is public transport," Fomca wrote in the booklet.

The country-wide survey was carried out from 2009 to 2010 with over 30,000 participants from both the rural and urban areas.

To counter rising food prices, Fomca suggested that the government routes more money into the farming industry and free up the food supply chain.

Consumers want a government "committed to" making the public transport system more reliable and cheaper, said Fomca.

"Today we want to vote [for] those who can truly represent us," said Fomca president Datuk Marimuthu Nadason in a press conference today

He said the booklet, meant for election candidates from both Barisan Nasional (BN) and Pakatan Rakyat (PR), will be sent out to all the 31 political parties.

He noted that there currently was a lack of "quality debate in Parliament", saying that consumers "don't want talk about race and religion (in Parliament). We want all these issues raised here to be debated in Parliament."

Marimuthu said Fomca has no political interests and only sought better consumer protection.

He also said: "We want subsidies that are unnecessary to go back to healthcare and education."

When asked about festive seasons, Marimuthu said that the government should ensure there's enough "essential goods in the market" and "monitor and check the prices".

The general election will only be due by April next year but is rumoured to be held at the end of this year.

Both the ruling coalition and opposition have been working hard to court groups and individuals ahead of what is set to be the most hotly-contested polls in the nation's history.

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