

Ahmad Maslan proud GST-free fried rice tweet sets 'personal record'
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By Anisah Shukry

Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan was a proud man today, saying his tweet displaying pictures of his tax-free culinary delights was shared thousands of times, adding it was a personal record for him.

The deputy finance minister had shared photographs of him with his fried rice containing ingredients free from the goods and services tax (GST), to convince people that the new consumption tax could be avoided if they found it too burdensome.

"In Malaysia, people like to eat out, and this is a habit they can change if they want to. If they feel GST adds to their costs and is a burden, we give them a choice," Ahmad told reporters when approached at the Parliament lobby.

"Because main raw foodstuff are zero-rated, unlike in other countries. That is the message I wanted to share with my fried rice.

"(There were) 3,335 retweets. That is a personal record for me," he added, prompting laughter from the press.

Ahmad's tweet last Sunday courted scorn and ridicule from Twitter users, who questioned why he had garnished the fried rice while it was still in the wok, and why the chillies were not diced.

But Ahmad today defended his cooking, and said that "creativity" helped capture people's attention.

"The garnishing is a form of creativity. If we look on the Internet, you will find all sorts of creative dishes.

"Besides watching CNN, CNBC and Aljazeera, I enjoy watching cooking shows. They're among my favourites. Other people like golf, but I don't because I don't know how to play, so I cook."

He added that the meal was garnished in the wok because it was served immediately from the wok. – June 17, 2015.

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