

Differing opinions okay, but must be based on facts, says Najib
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today stressed that differing opinions were not a problem as long as they were based on facts and constructive in nature.

But he said it became a problem when there were certain quarters who disseminated opinion or news which could create doubt and erode the confidence of the people in the government.

"A review found that some of the opinions were baseless or off target...This is the challenge in the new environment especially the media practitioners because they are chasing news.

"They want to be the first in the news because (some) want to form perceptions, not to ensure accuracy of news, it (accuracy) is as if it is secondary. When a perception is formed, it is very hard to scrape it off," he said.

Najib was speaking at a breaking-of-fast event with the media at the Karangkrak Group Complex in Shah Alam today.

Najib cited an example during the last general election that allegedly 40,000 Bangladeshi voters were waiting to vote for Barisan Nasional (BN), to the extent there were those who believed in the claim.

"It will take 1,000 jumbo aircraft to ferry that many, but no one asked until it went viral and damaged BN," he said.

Najib said the dissemination of baseless news also involved the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB) issue which purportedly used Lembaga Tabung Haji to rescue the company.

"The story went down to the ground, so much so the Tabung Haji depositors, namely the 'makcik and pakcik' (aunties and uncles) in the villages were all angry. It also went viral," he said.

Najib said the truth finally emerged and there were opposition members of parliament urging Tabung Haji not to sell the land connected to IMDB because it could generate a much bigger profit, but once again the damage was done.

"We seek the truth in politics. So, I want the media to seek the truth. Be fair, that's all I ask.

"God willing, we will be safe here and the hereafter if we use the truth as our guide," he said. – Bernama, July 2, 2015.

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