

Bird's nest traders rally for help over import ban

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's bird's nest industry has urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to help lift the import ban on the product to China.

Malaysian Federation of Bird's Nest Traders Association secretary Carole Loh warned that the industry was "on the brink of collapse" unless it received help soon.

Industry players came together in a rally called Love Malaysia, Love Our Bird's Nest Industry to exchange views and air grievances about the situation at Chin Woo Stadium yesterday.

"The industry has been hit very hard, with sales dropping by as much as 85% since China is our biggest importer," said Carole, adding that bird's nest prices had also dropped from RM4,000 per kg to just under RM2,000 in a year.

China halted bird's nests imports from Malaysia last July, when samples taken from blood-red bird's nests contained nitrite levels that did not meet its health standards.