

## **News Release**

July 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **Najib at 100 days: Strong Job Approval Rating on Economic Measures**

BANGI – As he approaches the 100 day mark of his premiership, Najib Razak’s approval ratings among Malaysians have risen thanks to a raft of announcements relating to economic policies, an inclusive message on inter-community unity via his One Malaysia concept as well as conciliatory gestures over Malay unity.

Fully 65% (comprising 15% saying ‘very satisfied’ and 50% saying ‘somewhat satisfied’) of Malaysians say that they were satisfied with his performance as Prime Minister, significantly up from 45% in mid-May 2009. Broken down into ethnic groups, the survey found 74% of Malays, 48% of the Chinese and 74% of Indians expressing satisfaction.

In spite of the encouraging job approval rating for the Prime Minister the survey also found that Malaysians remained split over direction of the country with 48% saying it was on the ‘right direction’ while 37% said ‘wrong direction’.

The latest Peninsular Malaysia-wide survey by the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research, conducted June 19 – July 1 among 1,060 voters interviewed in Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin, Tamil and English by telephone using a random stratified sampling method found that Najib’s job approval increased on the back of improving public sentiments over the state of the Malaysian economy and further dampening of concerns over political stability in the country.

### **Support for Economic Liberalization Initiatives**

The survey also found that Najib’s job approval rating on the initiatives taken to address the economic recession to be on the balance positive. For example, 62% approve of his handling of the economy while 24% disapprove. Furthermore, 61% were confident that he will be able to lead Malaysia out of the economic recession. The public was also broadly confident that the prime minister’s economic liberalization measures, which include the removal of long standing equity quotas for Bumiputeras, would be good for the country. 63% were confident that the liberalization measures would help Malaysia in the long run while 55% of Malays were confident that the measures would help the community in the long run. However the survey also found that a full 78% of the respondents of the survey did not understand the economic liberalization measures.

The survey found that the public was more cautious on the extent to which such initiatives would be successful. For example, 50% were confident that the fiscal stimulus

package announced early in the prime minister's term would achieve its objectives. In addition, 52% felt that they will not benefit from the stimulus package while 38% believed they would benefit.

### **One Malaysia and Race Relations**

76% of the public were aware of Najib's "1Malaysia" concept with 23% broadly saying that "it promotes unity between the various races" and 18% saying it "is about fairness and equality among the races". 39% of respondents however did not understand about the concept. The survey found that 46% of respondents were confident that 1Malaysia would be able to achieve its goals.

In a related question, the survey found that 60% of respondents comprising 71% of Malays, 72% of Indians and 40% of Chinese were confident that Najib would be able to improve race relations in Malaysia.

### **Improving Governance**

While Prime Minister Najib's performance on economic and socially inclusive policies was comparable to his job approval rating figure, public confidence over government functions was lower. This is shown in the table below:

Confidence or Lack of Confidence in Government Functions with Najib as PM

<b>Function</b>	<b>% Confident</b>	<b>% Not Confident</b>
The Police	46	45
Efficiency of Public Service Delivery	58	32
Elections Commission	51	34
Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency	41	46
The Judiciary	39	43
Timely implementation of government projects	38	45

View topline and other findings at [www.merdeka.org](http://www.merdeka.org)

### **About Merdeka Center for Opinion Research**

Merdeka Center for Opinion Research is an independent, non-partisan organization focused on public opinion research and socio-economic analysis. Merdeka's mission is to act as a bridge between ordinary Malaysians and other stakeholders with the leading members of the nation – by providing dispassionate presentation of public opinion survey results, analysis and position papers.

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