This survey and accompanying focus groups was made possible through support provided by the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
Methodology

1. The survey was conducted utilizing Merdeka Center’s Household Telephone Database whereby interview calls are distributed throughout Peninsular Malaysia.

2. In total, 1,025 respondents provided completed feedback using a structured questionnaire instrument. Each respondent is defined as an adult aged 16 or older with major influence on the purchase of household goods.

3. A structured random probability sampling was used to select the sample involving the following stages:
   - Selection of state-based telephone blocks from Merdeka’s National Household Telephone Database
   - Random selection of respondents from each state; and
   - Listing of all sampled households and contacting the respondents for interviews.

4. Fieldwork was conducted between 5th to 16th October 2006.
Telephone Interviews

Telephone interview sampling details for the Public Opinion Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>October 5-16, 2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No of households randomly selected across Peninsular Malaysia</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No of households contacted</td>
<td>2,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No of successful interviews</td>
<td>1,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Response rate</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contents

1. Methodology
2. Respondent Demographics
3. Race and Religious issues
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5. Perception towards Political Parties
Voter Opinion Survey
Peninsular Malaysia, October 2006

Respondent Demographics
Respondent Demographics (continued)

Household Income
- < RM1,500: 16%
- RM1,501-RM3000: 40%
- RM3,001-RM5,000: 15%
- > RM5000: 29%

Age of eldest child
- 12 years old & below: 35%
- 13-18 years old: 19%
- 19-25 years old: 18%
- 26 years old & above: 18%

Do you have children?
- Yes: 24%
- No: 76%

Internet Access
- At home: 14%
- At home & workplace/school: 8%
- Workplace/school: 6%
- Other locations: 4%
- No internet access: 68%
Q1. Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way things are going in the country today?
Q2. How would you rate the overall performance of the government in managing the national economy at present?

Satisfaction with the government's management of the economy:

- March: 39% Satisfied, 59% Dissatisfied
- October: 47% Satisfied, 50% Dissatisfied

Satisfaction with the government's management of the Economy:

- Malay: 39% Satisfied, 60% Dissatisfied
- Chinese: 55% Satisfied, 41% Dissatisfied
- Indian: 63% Satisfied, 34% Dissatisfied
- Total: 47% Satisfied, 50% Dissatisfied
Q3A. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to job opportunities for the average person?
Q3B. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to business growth and opportunities?

**Business growth and opportunities today**
- **July**: 62% Favorable, 33% Unfavorable
- **October**: 53% Favorable, 41% Unfavorable

**Business growth and opportunities**
- **Malay**: 66% Favorable, 29% Unfavorable
- **Chinese**: 58% Favorable, 35% Unfavorable
- **Indian**: 48% Favorable, 44% Unfavorable
- **Total**: 53% Favorable, 41% Unfavorable
Q3C. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to prices of common consumer item and services?

Prices of common consumer items and services today

July: 44% Favorable, 55% Unfavorable
October: 23% Favorable, 77% Unfavorable

Prices of common consumer items and services today

Malay: 22% Favorable, 78% Unfavorable
Chinese: 27% Favorable, 72% Unfavorable
Indian: 12% Favorable, 88% Unfavorable
Total: 23% Favorable, 77% Unfavorable
Q3D. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to interest of foreign investor in Malaysia?

Perceived interest of foreign investor today

- Favorable: 52% in July, 48% in October
- Unfavorable: 36% in July, 33% in October

Perceived interest of foreign investor

- Malay: Favorable 58%, Unfavorable 34%
- Chinese: Favorable 48%, Unfavorable 34%
- Indian: Favorable 41%, Unfavorable 41%
- Total: Favorable 48%, Unfavorable 52%
Q3E. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to corruption in the public sector?

Perceived corruption in the public sector

- Favorable
- Unfavorable

Malay: 17% Favorable, 68% Unfavorable
Chinese: 10% Favorable, 81% Unfavorable
Indian: 8% Favorable, 68% Unfavorable
Total: 13% Favorable, 72% Unfavorable
Q3F. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to efficiency of local agencies such as municipalities and district councils?

**Efficiency of local councils**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favorable</th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q3G. How would you rate the current conditions with respect to quality of the education system?

**Quality of the education**

- **Favorable**
  - Malay: 84%
  - Chinese: 47%
  - Indian: 66%
  - Total: 69%

- **Unfavorable**
  - Malay: 14%
  - Chinese: 53%
  - Indian: 32%
  - Total: 31%
Q4. How would you rate your own personal financial situation?

**Personal financial situation**

- Making ends meet is a constant struggle
- I struggle occasionally to make ends meet
- I can make ends meet
- I have more than I need to make ends meet

**Personal financial situation today**

- Making ends meet is a constant struggle
- I struggle occasionally to make ends meet
- I can make ends meet
- I have more than I need to make ends meet
Q5. Thinking of needs of your family and yourself, how do you think things would turn out in the future with respect to your income?

Expected personal financial situation

- **Improving**
  - Malay: 57%
  - Chinese: 39%
  - Indian: 51%
  - Total: 50%

- **Stagnant**
  - Malay: 17%
  - Chinese: 28%
  - Indian: 20%
  - Total: 21%

- **Declining**
  - Malay: 16%
  - Chinese: 23%
  - Indian: 15%
  - Total: 19%
Q6. How do you see the economic condition of the country over the next 3 years?

Expected economic situation

- **Improving**
  - Malay: 62%
  - Chinese: 31%
  - Indian: 38%
  - Total: 49%

- **Stagnant**
  - Malay: 13%
  - Chinese: 21%
  - Indian: 15%
  - Total: 16%

- **Declining**
  - Malay: 15%
  - Chinese: 32%
  - Indian: 24%
  - Total: 21%
Q7. How do you see the economic condition of the Malays over the next 3 years?

Expected Malay economic performance

- Improving
- Stagnant
- Declining

- Malay: 51% (Improving), 16% (Stagnant), 3% (Declining)
- Chinese: 57% (Improving), 18% (Stagnant), 9% (Declining)
- Indian: 80% (Improving), 9% (Stagnant), 1% (Declining)
- Total: 57% (Improving), 16% (Stagnant), 9% (Declining)

Expected Malay economic performance (among Malay respondent)

- Improving
- Stagnant
- Declining

- <RM1,500: 53% (Improving), 17% (Stagnant), 17% (Declining)
- RM1,501-RM3,000: 49% (Improving), 17% (Stagnant), 18% (Declining)
- RM3,001-RM5,000: 44% (Improving), 18% (Stagnant), 9% (Declining)
- >RM5,000: 60% (Improving), 9% (Stagnant), 9% (Declining)
Q8. How strongly do you feel government programs under the 9th Malaysia Plan will benefit or not benefit you and your family?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Do not benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government sector</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own business</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self employed</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Perceived benefit from 9th Malaysia plan
Q9. What is the most important issue facing Malaysia right now?

Top 10 the most important issues facing Malaysia today

- Price hike: 15%
- Crime & public safety: 11%
- Social & moral problems: 8%
- Racial issues: 8%
- Sluggish economy: 7%
- Corruption: 5%
- Unemployment & job opportunities: 5%
- Political instability: 3%
- Drug abuse: 3%
- Education: 2%
Q10. Overall, how strongly do you approve of the way Abdullah Badawi is managing the nation as the prime minister?

Approval rating for Abdullah Badawi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approval rating for Abdullah Badawi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q11. Should economic privileges for the Malays be withdrawn to make the Malays more competitive?

Malay perception towards withdrawal of economic privileges (among Malay respondent)

Attitudes toward withdrawal of Malay economic privileges

- Agree
- Disagree
- Others
Q12. Are there issues related to your ethnic group that worries you now?

Top 10 issues related to the ethnic groups

- Rights & equality in education system: 17%
- Social issues: 15%
- Racial, factionalism & selfishness: 13%
- The economy: 10%
- Unequal treatment towards races: 10%
- Malay attitude (laziness, lack of effort): 4%
- Current issues & political stability: 3%
- Crime: 3%
- Religion: 2%
- Drug abuse: 2%

Issues related to the ethnic group

- Total: Yes 57%, Maybe 1%, No 39%
- Indian: Yes 81%, Maybe 15%, No 15%
- Chinese: Yes 49%, Maybe 2%, No 46%
- Malay: Yes 57%, Maybe 39%, No 39%
Q12A. Can you give me an example of such issues?  

Chinese Respondents

Top 10 issues related to the Malays

- Social ills: 26%
- Racial, factionalism & selfishness: 17%
- The economy: 13%
- Malay attitude (lazy, lack of effort): 8%
- Unequal treatment between races: 6%
- Current issues & political stability: 5%
- Religion: 4%
- Drug abuse: 4%
- The constitution & Malay privileges: 3%
- Crime: 2%
Q12A. Can you give me an example of such an issue?

Top 10 Issues Related to the Chinese Respondents

- Right & equality in education: 45%
- Unequal treatment towards races: 16%
- Racial fractionalism & selfishness: 9%
- The decline in the Chinese population: 7%
- The economy: 6%
- Ignorance towards culture: 22%
- Maal privileges: 22%
- Job opportunities: 22%
- Current issues & political stability: 11%
- Poverty & hardship: 4%
Q12A. Can you give me an example of such issues?  
Chinese Respondents

Top 10 issues related to the Indians

- Rights & equality in education system: 20%
- Gangsterism: 16%
- Crime: 10%
- Unequal treatment towards races: 10%
- Job opportunities: 10%
- The economy: 9%
- Racial factionalism & selfishness: 8%
- Social ills: 6%
- Poverty & hardship: 5%
- Price hike: 3%
Q14A. If yes, what is it (election issues)?

Issues that will influence voting for Malay

- Price hike: 4%
- Political issues: 2%
- Islamic issues: 2%
- Interests of one's own race: 2%
- Economic development: 1%
- Performance of political leaders: 1%
- Racial issues: 1%
- Social issues & crimes: 1%
- Corruption: 1%
Q14A. If yes, what is it (election issues)?

Issues that will influence voting for Chinese

- Economic development: 5%
- Equality among races: 3%
- Performance of political leaders: 3%
- Interests of one's own race: 3%
- Education: 2%
- Corruption: 2%
- Political issues: 1%
- Government policies: 1%
- Price hike: 1%
- Racial issues: 1%
Q14A. If yes, what is it (election issues)?

Issues that will influence voting for Indian

- Performance of political leaders: 13%
- Economic development: 7%
- Equality among races: 5%
- Social issues & crimes: 2%
- Price hike: 1%
- Political issues: 1%
- Racial issues: 1%
- Interests of one's own race: 1%
- The need for Opposition: 1%
Q15. Islamization is the process where the Islamic values and rules of conduct are incorporated as part of public life. How worried or not are you with the trend of Islamization in Malaysian society today?

Concern over Islamization

- Malay: 36% Worried, 64% Unworried
- Chinese: 46% Worried, 51% Unworried
- Indian: 58% Worried, 42% Unworried
- Total: 41% Worried, 59% Unworried
Q19. In your view, how effective are the political parties that represent the interest of Chinese / Indians (non-Muslims) on relation to voicing the concern of your race with respect to Islamization?

Non-Malay Perceived effectiveness of political parties

- Chinese: 58% Effective, 27% Ineffective
- Indian: 79% Effective, 10% Ineffective
- Total: 62% Effective, 23% Ineffective
Q20. Do you think Islamization is threatening to you?

Is Islam threatening?

- **Agree**
- **Disagree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q22. How serious do you think is the current disagreement between Dr. Mahathir & Abdullah Badawi in affecting the politics of the country at present?

Perception towards seriousness of Mahathir & Abdullah disagreement

- **Malay**
  - Serious: 53%
  - Not Serious: 47%
- **Chinese**
  - Serious: 54%
  - Not Serious: 46%
- **Indian**
  - Serious: 56%
  - Not Serious: 44%
- **Total**
  - Serious: 54%
  - Not Serious: 46%
Q26. How strongly do you agree with the view that the problems faced by Abdullah Badawi today is a legacy from Dr. Mahathir?

Are problems faced by Abdullah Badawi today a legacy from Dr. Mahathir?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q28. Do you think the conflict between the Abdullah Badawi & Dr. Mahathir has reduced the Prime Minister's ability to concentrate on running the country?

Do you think Abdullah & Mahathir conflict diverting the PM's attention from important issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malay</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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