



News Release

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Despite crisis, Pakatan retains upper hand in Selangor

BANGI – A survey among voters across Selangor found that a majority of voters continue to support Pakatan Rakyat despite the protracted leadership crisis gripping the state's Menteri Besar position. 57% of Selangor voters say they would still give Pakatan Rakyat “the chance to govern the state again” if elections were held soon. Only 29% of voters said they would not give the coalition a chance while 15% were uncertain.

When asked which coalition they felt most confidence in running the state, the figure for Pakatan was markedly lower at 43% but that for Barisan Nasional remained the same at 29%. Meanwhile 13% of voters were indifferent to both coalitions.

With respect to the choice of a future Menteri Besar, the survey found Dr Wan Azizah as the front runner with 25% of voters favoring her compared to Bukit Antarabangsa ADUN and PKR Deputy President Azmin Ali and generic candidates from PAS and UMNO. A plurality of voters, 37% remained unsure of their choice.

The prolonged crisis has affected public views of the state, the survey found that only 46% of respondents felt that the state was headed on the right direction, a significant reduction compared to 64% in March 2014.

In our opinion, while the political developments in Selangor has dampened the mood of the Selangor voters towards Pakatan Rakyat the survey found contra-Barisan Nasional sentiment still strong among them. This means that Barisan Nasional will still face an uphill struggle despite Pakatan having suffered a loss of confidence and prestige among Selangor voters should an election be called at the current point in time.

The survey was carried out by the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research between 11th and 17th August 2014 to gauge voters' perceptions of current developments in the Selangor. 808 registered voters comprising 50% Malay, 34% Chinese, 16% Indians which is reflective of the current electoral profile of the state was interviewed. The survey was conducted on the basis of random stratified sampling along ethnicity, gender and state constituency. The poll was conducted by telephone interviews.

About Merdeka Center for Opinion Research

Merdeka Center for Opinion Research was formally established in 2001 as an independent 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 collecting public opinion studies and expressing them through survey results, analysis and position papers. For details, visit: www.merdeka.org

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