

News Release

February 26th 2013

PM's approval rating slides further

BANGI – Several weeks away from the general election, a survey concluded among voters in Peninsular Malaysia in early February 2013 found that the Prime Minister's approval rating had slipped further to 61% from 63% at the end of December 2012.

The survey found that while satisfaction among Chinese and Indian voters remained at 34% and 75% respectively, the sentiment among Malay voters had declined 4% from 77% to 73%.

The survey also detected movements in voter sentiments towards the government and the ruling Barisan Nasional party whereby 48% said they were "happy with the government" while 45% reported they were "happy with Barisan Nasional". The survey also found declines from among Malay respondents towards the government and Barisan Nasional.

With respect to issues, the survey found that 32% of voters were concerned about economic conditions, followed by crime and "political issues" which they viewed as most important issues affecting people in the country. In addition to these concerns, a plurality of voters – 46% said corruption to be the issue that the government must tackle.

The survey was carried out by the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research between 23rd January and 6th February 2013 to gauge voters' perceptions of issues in the lead up to elections. This survey took place after the January 12th opposition rally at Stadium Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur, as well as during media coverage of the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Immigration in Sabah, statements by businessman Deepak Jaikishan, former chief of police Musa Hassan as well as continuing controversies over the use of the word "Allah" for the non-Muslim community. The survey was completed several days ahead of the Chinese New Year festivities.

1,021 registered voters comprising 59% Malay, 32% Chinese and 9% Indian respondents were interviewed by telephone in the poll. Respondents were selected on the basis of random stratified sampling along ethnicity, gender and state of residence. The interviews were carried out in the preferred language of the respondents. The survey was funded internally by Merdeka Center for Opinion Research for release to the public.

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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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