

27 JUN 2004

Malaysians-Poll

MALAYSIANS LOVE SOCCER, DETEST BUSH, LOATHE SHARON

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- A poll conducted on the likes and dislikes of Malaysians shows the sports they love most is soccer and the leaders they most dislike are US President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who are no strangers to hate polls.

The poll was conducted by the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIU) Research Centre in April using 1,140 respondents selected randomly from Peninsular Malaysia.

The respondents comprised 805 Malays, 273 Chinese, 62 Indians and others with their numbers reflecting the racial composition of the populace. Almost half of the respondents in this poll were women.

The poll also found Malaysians showing their antipathy for other leaders including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and even former Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. However the percentage was small.

The head of the Research Centre Prof Datuk Dr Syed Arabi Idid who coordinated the poll said in the open poll the respondents were asked as to the world leaders they disliked most.

Nevertheless, the ones who got the actual honours were Bush with 54 percent of the respondents nominating him, Sharon trailing behind with 12 percent and Saddam 5 percent, he said.

According to Syed Arabi, Bush and Sharon were also at the top of the list in the previous two polls conducted by IIU last October and January.

In another closed poll with the same sample size, with only 479 males and 363 female responding, Syed Arabi said they were asked about their most favourite sports event from seven events listed - football, badminton, netball, tennis, volley ball, swimming and wrestling.

Surprisingly Malaysians dislike wrestling.

Preponderance for soccer was obvious with 32 percent of respondents going for it, followed by badminton (17 percent), and netball (seven percent).

The poll also showed Malaysian women were more keen in five sporting events compared with their countrymen.

Malaysian women were more keen than men in badminton with 25 percent (men 11 percent), netball 15 percent (one percent), tennis four percent (three percent), volley ball six percent (one percent), and swimming four percent (two percent). About 13 percent of the women were keen in football, but the response for wrestling was nil.

The poll also found that 39 percent of the Malay respondents favoured football, Chinese (13 percent), Indians and others (26 percent) while for badminton, Malays 15 percent, Chinese 22 percent and Indians 19 percent and for netball Malays nine percent, Chinese, Indians and others two percent.

The IIU conducts polls periodically on various issues to gauge Malaysians' stand on these issues and their likes and dislikes.

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