

MCA veep downplays PM's falling popularity
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MCA vice-president Donald Lim has made light of an independent pollster's findings that Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's approval has dropped, saying the figures are not authoritative.

"You see, Merdeka Center (for Opinion Research) is a survey group. It has done all the research. As far as I am concerned, it is an independent party, but it can't represent what we call the authority.

"In the finance sector, we have Standard and Poors (and) Morgan Stanley. As far as Merdeka Center (is concerned) we can look at it and make a judgment," said Lim, who is a deputy finance minister.

Lim said Merdeka Center's findings could be used as a reference point, but was quick to qualify that the data could be very subjective.

According to Merdeka Center, Najib's approval rating has dropped to the lowest point, at 59 percent, from a high of 72 percent in June last year.

Among others, the pollster suggests that inflationary pressure resulting from the increases in fuel and electricity costs was a factor.

It also cited Najib's mishandling of the Bersih 2.0 rally as another reason for the drop.

Don't agree with drop in Chinese support

To a question, Lim said the 11-point drop in Najib's approval rating from the Chinese community was questionable.

"We don't agree on that figure," Lim said after chairing the Selangor MCA exco meeting in Petaling Jaya.

However, he was quick to add that MCA would be doing its best to increase public support for Najib.

Lim was also asked if state MCA had done a survey of its own on the premier's approval rating, to which he replied in the negative.

"We have not done that. We are concerned about a couple of recent issues.

"DAP has twisted and turned on the Bersih and the Jais (prosletising claim) issues. We want to counter these, so that the people will understand," he added.