

**Najib's approval rating holding steady**  
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KUALA LUMPUR – The approval rating of Najib Abdul Razak has remained stable and in positive territory, according to a study conducted by an opinion research firm, Merdeka Centre.

The poll conducted from Nov 30 to Dec 11 showed that the highest approval rating was recorded among Indians (85 per cent), followed by Malays (74 per cent) and Chinese (54 per cent).

The Prime Minister's approval rating declined slightly to 69 per cent from 72 per cent in May, with 22 per cent "very satisfied" and the remaining 47 per cent "somewhat satisfied" with Najib's performance.

This could be due to the reduction of government subsidies for items such as fuel and sugar during the survey period, Merdeka Centre said in a statement on Friday.

A sample 1,005 registered voters in Peninsular Malaysia were quizzed over the telephone for the survey.

Fifty-four per cent of the respondents agreed that the country was heading in the right direction, up slightly from 52 per cent in May on the back of the perception that the Malaysian economy continued to perform reasonably well and that the nation's leaders were more dynamic.

The topmost concern remained the economy at 24 per cent, followed by social problems at 16 per cent.

"Worries over race-related matters ranked third at 11 per cent of the public mindspace. Other significant worries include political instability and crime at eight per cent each, followed by corruption at seven per cent," the statement said.

Fifty-three per cent of voters felt that the economic conditions were favourable, an improvement from 47 per cent in May.

Bernama reported that the survey found marked improvement in three of the four indicators used: Satisfaction with personal income levels increased six percent to 52 per cent, with job opportunities from eight per cent to 48 per cent, and with business opportunities from six per cent to 50 per cent.

Satisfaction with fighting corruption is at 35 per cent, compared to 36 per cent in May, reducing crime 47 per cent from 41 per cent, improving rural living standards 55 per cent from 52 per cent, improving public transport 55 per cent from 56 per cent, providing assistance 58 per cent from 54 per cent, and improving quality of education 62 per cent from 63 per cent.

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