

# 'ANWAR RATING HIGHER THAN 3 FORMER PMs'

PKR No. 2 says  
findings of  
survey must be  
read in context

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**P** RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's approval rating is higher than that of the three prime ministers before him, said Rafizi Ramli.

The PKR deputy president and economy minister said the popularity pattern for all prime ministers was the same, starting with high support when they first assumed office but dropping sharply after six months to a year in the post.

"This is not something strange. The report (by the Merdeka Center) must be read in context. Any government in the world, once it comes into power, its popularity will fall.

"So in this case, the findings

must be read in context with the three prime ministers before Anwar and after Datuk Seri Najib Razak: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

"Any prime minister, after assuming office, experiences a drop in popularity.

"But based on my reading of the findings, Anwar's approval rating is better than the prime ministers before him after a year in office."

He said this after the simultaneous opening of the PKR Wanita and Youth congresses here yesterday morning.

Rafizi said based on its party's surveys, the unity government's popularity was high after the last general election and remained so until May after the drop in the currency, an issue used by the opposition during the state elections.

He added that it slowly climbed back up after the government launched a series of policy papers, including the Madani Economy and the National Energy Transition Roadmap.

"Based on our survey, which has guided us since 2016 until we



*PKR deputy president Rafizi Ramli speaking at the opening of the PKR Wanita and Youth congresses in Putrajaya yesterday.* BERNAMA PIC

became the government, it is status quo.

"The unity government and Anwar's leadership are at their most stable because the politics is stable internally and the people's support for him is status quo.

"Going forward and looking at the elements, the unity government is rock solid.

"The public support is going up, albeit not incrementally, but the opposition is in tatters."

The Merdeka Center study had shown that Anwar's approval rating had dropped to 50 per cent compared with 68 per cent in its December poll last year.

This, the independent pollster said, was due to rising concern about the economy.

When addressing 2,000 delegates at the PKR Youth and Women's wings at the party's national congress earlier, Rafizi made a straight jab at Pas by describing the Islamist party as the perfect example of a party with strong idealism minus talent organisation.

He spoke of when PKR used to

be with Pas back in the Pakatan Rakyat days.

He said Pas was capable of only bringing numbers to political ceramah but failed to translate them into votes.

"Idealism is good, it will pull a lot of people to join the party, but even with the numbers, without organisation, without the leadership and talent that pave the way for the future, idealism is pointless.

"You know which party is like that? That's Pas."

He said the current generation of voters' political leaning stemmed from dissatisfaction, which posed a challenge to any government.

He said such a sentiment made it easy for the opposition to capitalise on the circumstances, as it just needed to fan the flames.

"This is the challenge that you have to face."

More than 2,700 PKR leaders and members, as well as 1,500 observers, are attending the two-day congress at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.