

# Anwar takes note of survey findings

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says he has taken note of the findings of a Merdeka Centre survey related to public approval of him and his government.

The Prime Minister said he is aware of the findings of the survey, which indicated a decline in the approval rating for him from 68% to 50%.

Speaking to Bernama after Friday prayers here yesterday, however, he said as the findings were based on 1,200 respondents, the survey was not reflective of Malaysia's 32 million population.

Yesterday, *The Star* carried a story about the Merdeka Centre survey that aimed to measure Anwar's popularity a year after he became Prime Minister.

The survey also found that 48% of respondents were unhappy as they felt the country was heading in the wrong direction.

Nearly four out of five (or 78%) respondents polled felt the biggest problem faced by the nation was the economy.

"They cited economic concerns as the number one issue faced by the people today," said Merdeka Centre in a statement accompanying its findings.

Among the top five economic concerns were an unfavourable economy in general, the high cost of living, the weakening ringgit, low minimum income and economic development.

The survey also found that rating for the Federal Government currently stood at 41%, compared with 54% last December.

The self-funded survey by the independent think tank polled 1,220 registered voters comprising 52% Malays, 29% Chinese, 7% Indians, 6% Muslim bumiputras, and 6% non-Muslim bumiputras from Sabah and Sarawak in order to be as representative of the electoral profile as possible.

The survey took place from Oct 4-24 involving calls to voters across the country via fixed line or mobile phones.