

Survey: Najib popularity growing, Dr M still influential
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 16 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad continues to hold sway despite retiring as prime minister in 2003 while Datuk Seri Najib Razak has steadily increased in popularity since assuming office over two years ago, a poll by a local university shows.

According to the International Islamic University (UIA) survey, Najib's approval ratings among the Malay, Chinese and Indian communities rose from 35 per cent, 33 per cent, and 41 per cent respectively in 2008 to 59 per cent, 45 per cent and 62 per cent respectively this year.

Those surveyed also responded positively to former premier Dr Mahathir, with a significant 74 per cent giving him the thumbs up.

Conducted by the university's Communications Studies Department, the survey also found opposition leaders Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and Lim Guan Eng to be rapidly losing support with the poll's participants.

The poll was performed from March 2008 to July 2011 and surveyed some 1,500 respondents.

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