

Rais Questions Survey On PM's Popularity
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim today questioned the sampling method used in a recent survey which showed a dip in the popularity of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

He said the sampling method of the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research had not considered the rural community, the Indian community in perspective, and the community in Kuala Lumpur which strongly supported the prime minister.

The survey of 1,027 respondents saw Najib's rating drop six per cent, from 65 per cent in May 2011 to 59 per cent in August.

Dr Rais said an Information Department survey of 50,000 respondents comprising people of all walks of life throughout the country, including in Sabah and Sarawak, found that the people most accepted the leadership of the prime minister and the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

Speaking to reporters at the Aidilfitri open house hosted by Najib and other cabinet ministers at Seri Perdana here, he said the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research should adopt a comprehensive approach when conducting a survey, similar to the method employed in several Western countries.

"Its samplings are restricted and confined only to certain quarters. As such, the results will not be founded on the actual situation," he said.

Dr Rais also said that the number of people calling at the Seri Perdana open house, which was expected to be higher than in previous years, reflected the confidence of the people in the leadership of Najib as the prime minister.

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