

PM's approval rate climbs
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POPULAR LEADER: People-friendly initiatives push support for Najib to 69pc from 59pc

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's people-friendly initiatives have won the hearts of the people.

A recently-concluded survey by Merdeka Centre For Opinion Research among voters in the peninsula showed his approval rating had climbed to 69 per cent from 59 per cent in August last year.

In a statement issued yesterday, the centre said the findings also showed as many as one-third of respondents who were inclined towards Pakatan Rakyat had reported satisfaction with the prime minister.

The figure, the centre said, came among others on the back of the disbursement of the one-off RM500 Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) payment. This payment was to alleviate the economic burden of low-income households.

"Support for the prime minister was highest among households with income lower than RM1,500 per month at 78 per cent, Indian respondents, 80 per cent and Malay respondents, 74 per cent."

The survey also found that satisfaction with the prime minister was higher among respondents above 50 years old, at over 73 per cent as compared with younger respondents.

"In our view, the rise in public satisfaction may be due to widespread awareness of the prime minister's people-friendly initiatives and proposals to improve the country's democratic credentials such as the replacement of the Internal Security Act, proposed amendments to the University and University Colleges Act and reforms to improve transparency of the electoral process."

The survey found that positive feelings towards the government were higher among older voters.

It said 54 per cent among those aged 60 and above were happy with the government, against 39 per cent of voters under 30 years old.

The survey carried out between Feb 10 and Feb 23, was to gauge voters' perception of current developments in the country.

A total of 1,022 registered voters, comprising 59 per cent Malay, 32 per cent Chinese and nine per cent Indian respondents, were interviewed for the poll via telephone.

Respondents were selected on the basis of random stratified sampling along ethnicity, gender and state of residence.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/local/general/pm-s-approval-rate-climbs-1.58430>