

Chinese, Indians most suspicious of '1 Malaysia', survey shows
The Malaysian Insider
February 18 , 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 — The Chinese and Indian communities were the most suspicious of the 1 Malaysia concept nearly three years after it was introduced by Datuk Seri Najib Razak, a survey by Universiti Malaya has shown.

According to findings by the university's International Institute of Public Policy and Management as reported by Bernama Online, the Malay community were more accepting of the prime minister's national unity concept.

"This is consistent with the attitude of the ethnic Chinese and Indians (11 per cent) who opine that the 1 Malaysia concept is a mere political ploy to secure electoral gains. This response is not matched by the Malay respondents (only at 4.0 per cent)," it was quoted as saying.

The survey of 2,048 respondents took place from May to July 2011. Those surveyed were primarily students and civil servants from Johor, Terengganu, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Sarawak.

According to the institute, the findings showed a need to depart from the adversarial nature of policies and politics in order for the 1 Malaysia concept to be better accepted.

"In order to narrow the perceptual gap, inter-ethnic relations within the framework of state and society must not be conceived in 'zero sum' terms. Rather, institutions and policies must be seen to be inclusive and equitable – in balancing the majority and minority interests," it said.

The survey also found a high awareness of the 1 Malaysia concept, with 79 per cent of those surveyed saying the government has succeeded in communicating the concept to them.

East Malaysian Bumiputeras also reacted more positively to the concept than their peninsular counterparts, with 79 per cent giving it the thumbs up compared to 68 per cent for the latter group.

Female respondents were also more likely to approve of the concept, with 83 per cent giving it the nod as opposed to 75 per cent of men.

Najib introduced 1 Malaysia, which pushes the idea of national unity, shortly after taking office in 2009

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