

PM's Approval Rating Goes Up
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- The approval rating of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has climbed to 69 per cent from 59 per cent in August 2011, according to the Merdeka Centre for Opinion Research.

It attributed this to the improving public mood over the general economy and disbursement of funding to alleviate the economic burden of low-income households.

The centre said its survey found that between Feb 10 and 23, support for the prime minister was highest, at 78 per cent, among households with incomes lower than RM1,500 per month, with that of Indian respondents at 80 per cent and Malay respondents at 74 per cent.

The survey also found that satisfaction with the prime minister was higher among respondents above 50 years of age, at over 73 per cent, as compared to 64 per cent among younger respondents aged 21 to 30.

The findings also showed that as many as one-third of the respondents who were inclined towards the opposition Pakatan Rakyat reported satisfaction with the prime minister.

"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 Malaysia's democratic credentials, such as the replacement of the Internal Security Act, proposed amendments to the Universities and University Colleges Act and reforms to improve transparency of the electoral process," the centre said.

Positive feelings towards the government were higher among older voters and lowest among younger voters, according to the survey which was carried out 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 by telephone in the poll.

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