

BN Leads In Support From The People, Says UM Study
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) - Some 49 per cent Malaysians are expected to vote for Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next general election (PRU 13) compared to 21 percent for Pakatan Rakyat (PR), according to a study by a local university.

The study by University of Malaya Centre For Democracy and Elections (UMCEDEL) said 30 percent Malaysians have yet to decide which way to support, making them fence-sitters who will decide at the last minute.

The study entitled "Political Tendency Towards PRU 13" involving 2,282 respondents was conducted face to face with the Malays, Chinese, Indians and others, randomly selected according to the racial composition in the country.

It was held between March 31 and April 15, with error margin error of about 2.1 percent, according to the website <http://umcedel.um.edu.my>

The study which interviewed 55 percent male respondents with the rest female showed that PR has a long way to go before it could capture Putrajaya.

Fence-sitters would play an important role in the election and various policies introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had attracted strong support with two-thirds of respondents supporting the government.

Respondents were asked whether programmes introduced by Najib would increase their support for BN or otherwise, and 68 percent indicated support for 'Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia' while 74 percent agreed with 'Klinik 1Malaysia'

The study also showed that it would be difficult for PR to form the federal government after PRU 13 due to voters acceptance of initiatives introduced by the prime minister.

It also found that the majority of Chinese and Indians were expected to vote for PR in Selangor while the support of the Malays was divided equally between BN and PR.

Some 60 percent Indian respondents and 49 percent Chinese respondents said they would support PR in Selangor compared to only 20 percent Indians and 16 percent Chinese for BN.

However, both parties had equal support among the Malays, with BN slightly ahead with 34 percent compared with PR's 33 percent.

In Perak, the study found that 67 percent Indians support BN followed by 36 percent Malays and 35 percent Chinese while PR has 30 percent support from the Malays and Chinese and only 5 percent from the Indians.

It also found that PR would retain support in Kelantan with 44 percent of the respondents in favour compared to 27 percent for BN.

In Kedah, PR had majority support from Malay and Chinese respondents while BN was more popular among the Indians.

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