

BN winning people's hearts with policies
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KUALA LUMPUR: The people's perception of Barisan Nasional (BN) is better now than in 2008 despite the slew of slander and adverse accusations by the opposition.

Political analyst Assoc Prof Dr Sivamurugan Pandian said the change in perception followed BN's success in transforming the nation through the Political Transformation Programme, Government Transformation Programme and

Economic Transformation Programme which bore results where the people themselves could enjoy the benefits.

The deputy dean of Universiti Sains Malaysia's School of Social Sciences felt that the majority of the people now realised that the various social and welfare programmes carried out by the BN government had made it difficult for the opposition to deny these efforts.

The programmes include the Perumahan Rakyat 1Malaysia (PR1MA), Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (KR1M), Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M), Skim Amanah Rakyat 1Malaysia (SARA 1Malaysia), Transformasi Kedai Runcit (TUKAR) and Menu Rakyat 1Malaysia which have won the hearts of many Malaysians.

"Programmes that can clearly improve the people's living standards, welfare and comfort are what they all want, especially voters in the rural areas.

"As for urban voters, besides benefiting from these programmes, they also appreciate the national leadership's transparency and willingness to listen to their problems and work at solving the problems."

Sivamurugan said this had and was still being done by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his deputy, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, during their visit to places and at walkabouts to meet the rakyat all over the country to get feedback and, as a result, negative perception of BN had decreased.

He said although the 13th general election was approaching, the fence-sitters, however, were still cautious in choosing which party to represent them and to continue with the development efforts and not just shower them with empty promises.

"Although quietly they're assessing what has been done by both the BN and opposition governments since 2008, I can say that BN will win back the protest votes cast in the last general election."

Sivamurugan said continuous efforts by the prime minister and his deputy could draw votes from the fence-sitters, what more if the same commitment were shown by other BN leaders at all levels.

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