

UM survey points to BN win, but increased support for PR in GE13
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 — A survey conducted by Universiti Malaya (UM) today showed that Barisan Nasional (BN) would likely win the 13th general election but also an increase in public confidence that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) could take over Putrajaya.

The survey "Polling Trends in the Run-up to the 13th General Election" was carried out from September 1-16. A similar survey was carried out last March.

University of Malaya's Centre for Democracy and Elections (UMCEDEL) was responsible for the survey, which found that BN garnered 44 per cent of support among those polled, a drop from last March's results that stood at 49 per cent.

For PR, the survey showed an increase in support, from only 21 per cent in March to 30 per cent.

Survey results also indicated that PR would likely hold onto Selangor and Kedah.

It, however, noted a decrease in support among Kelantan residents towards the state's PAS-led government.

Public confidence in the PR-led government in Selangor also led to a marked increase from 38 per cent to 50 per cent in the state while for BN, there was a decrease from 28 per cent to 16 per cent.

A similar pattern was seen in Kedah, where confidence in PR rose from 37 per cent to 48 per cent, while BN saw a drop in confidence among those polled, from 40 per cent to 32 per cent.

In Kelantan, however, public confidence in PR fell from 44 per cent to 41 per cent, while the belief in BN's ability to govern the state rose from 27 per cent to 32 per cent in September.

The face-to-face survey involved 1,536 respondents, from across all three major ethnic groups. Each person was randomly selected to answer a structured survey.

The survey also addressed public receptiveness to the prospect of a debate between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and PR's de facto leader, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

It found that 72 per cent of respondents were in support of such an event, 17 per cent were against it while another 11 per cent were unsure whether it should take place at all.

The survey also showed that Najib's popularity had fallen from 61 per cent in March to 58 per cent this month.

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