

Najib's ratings at 63pc, but response lukewarm to BN and government
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 — A new poll of voters released today points towards hotly contested elections this year, with fewer than half of those surveyed saying they were happy with the government or the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's ratings, while still relatively high, dipped slightly by two points to 63 per cent in the poll conducted late last month, from 65 per cent in November.

According to Merdeka Center, the survey carried out among voters in Peninsular Malaysia at the end of December 2012 found that the prime minister's approval rating had slipped slightly from 65 per cent in November 2012 to 63 per cent.

The survey found that while satisfaction among Malay and Indian voters remained strong at 77 per cent and 76 per cent respectively, the sentiment among Chinese voters had dropped to 34 per cent.

The survey also found that voters' response towards the government remained lukewarm, with only 45 per cent of the respondents saying they were "happy with the government".

With regard to the perception towards BN, 47 per cent of the respondents said they were "happy with Barisan Nasional".

The poll also uncovered significant differences between different demographic groups.

Among women, 53 per cent of those polled were happy with BN, while only 40 per cent of men shared the view.

For rural voters, 56 per cent were happy with BN, while only 42 per cent of urban voters had the same stand on the ruling coalition.

A total of 70 per cent of female voters were satisfied with the PM's performance, while only 57 per cent of male respondents were happy with Najib.

Najib's ratings were also good among 70 per cent of rural voters as opposed to only 60 per cent of urban respondents.

The survey was carried out by Merdeka Center after last year's Umno general assembly.

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