

Varsity students rate PM's qualities highly
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KUALA LUMPUR: Approachable and youth-friendly. These are the prime minister's key winning traits, as revealed by a study taken among student voters.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak was polled the top candidate for prime minister among students, winning 67.4 per cent of respondents in the Student Voters Feedback Study.

"His best quality is his own personality," said Malik Syam Mohd Latiff, 23, from Universiti Malaya.

The Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) student said he had the opportunity to meet Najib on several occasions.

"We talked, exchanged ideas and joked. He (Najib) is very cool, and does not dismiss our opinions (off hand). He listens to what we have to say."

He said since Najib held the reins of the country, there were noticeable progress and changes.

"The MRT project, Peaceful Assembly Act 2012, amending of the ISA, book vouchers for students ... all this did not go unnoticed by us (students). He is serious in upgrading the lives of our people, and for that reason, I personally would like to give him another chance. I would like to see this country prosper."

Shafawati Farhana Mohd Safihie, 24, also sings the same tune of Najib's approachable traits and changes he had done.

"The way he runs the country with the people's best interest at heart is the sole reason why I would choose him again. Beside that, he is very approachable via Facebook and Twitter. You could post questions or comments and he will reply. That's awesome. How many other leaders do that?"

The accounting student from Universiti Teknologi Mara also said that for the past 54 years, the Barisan Nasional (BN) government had always implemented change for the benefit of the people.

"The BN government has proved their worth. In short, 'Janji Ditepati' (promises fulfilled) and I think the opposition is singing the wrong tune. They (opposition) are making empty promises. Students now are well aware of current issues. We read, we learn. You can't fool us forever. As we grow older and more mature, we know that changes can't happen overnight, and drastic changes are not always good."

Shafawati said the book voucher and discount card incentives had captured her heart.

"The books we use are expensive and mostly imported. Surviving on PTPTN (National Higher Education Fund Corporation) alone is hard as we have our daily expenses as well. The incentives helps to take the load off."

Yayasan Ehwah Siswazah (YES) recently conducted a survey to observe the relationship between students and political perceptions, with participation from Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and UM.

In George Town, Youth and Sport Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said students had confidence in Najib to lead the country.

"Most of the students' thinking are now more rational and mature. They are learned and will not easily succumb to taking risks and gambling their future away.

"I am not surprised that they chose to vote Najib as their favourite candidate to hold the premiership," he said here yesterday after paying respects to badminton legend the late Datuk Eddy Choong, who died on Monday.

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