

**Najib disagrees with UMCEDEL poll, says own survey shows BN leading**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 – Datuk Seri Najib Razak has dismissed a university electoral study showing the Barisan Nasional (BN) chief trailing his political foe Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, saying today his coalition’s poll showed him to be ahead in the race for Putrajaya.

The University of Malaya Centre of Democracy and Election’s (UMCEDEL) poll released three days ago signalled that more than 60 per cent of voters surveyed favoured Pakatan Rakyat’s (PR) manifesto, compared to just 50 per cent for BN’s election pledges.

The UMCEDEL survey also showed 43 per cent of respondents believed Anwar was qualified to be prime minister, pipping the caretaker PM by four percentage points.

“I don’t agree with the poll. We have our own poll. My poll indicates that we are ahead,” he was quoted by the Malaysiakini news portal as telling a news conference after a luncheon with 1,000 people in Rawang, Selangor.

In an immediate reply, PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution Ismail panned Najib for raining on the independent poll findings by Malaysia’s oldest university when the results were against him.

“Instead of dismissing its results and denigrating UMCEDEL, caretaker Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should respect the findings of a poll conducted by an independent academic body of Universiti Malaya, Malaysia’s oldest tertiary institution,” he said in a statement.

“In fact, Najib had praised UMCEDEL in June 2012 when the released poll results were in their favour,” he added.

Saifuddin Nasution (picture right) also said that his party was happy that UMCEDEL’s poll had found more than half of the Malays surveyed to be confident in PKR advisor Anwar’s leadership.

“It is heartening that 54 per cent of the Malay respondents share that confidence in Datuk Seri Anwar, dispelling the allegations made that Pakatan Rakyat does not appeal to Malays,” he said.

He also said the opposition pact would build on the people’s faith and double its efforts to campaign for a win in the remaining seven days before polling on May 5.

The UMCEDEL survey, which polled 1,407 voters in the peninsula from the day Parliament was dissolved on April 3 to nomination day on April 20, showed that the percentage of Malay fence-sitters rose from 53 per cent in March to 77 per cent in April, while the percentage of Chinese fence-sitters fell to just 17 per cent this month from 35 per cent last month.

According to UMCEDEL’s survey, PR’s various pledges that influenced voters to back the opposition pact are an average of 60 per cent, with the promise to reduce fuel prices at 66 per cent, eliminating toll (60 per cent), reducing car prices (61 per cent), free tertiary

education (63 per cent), getting rid of the Automated Enforcement System (AES) (52 per cent), and a minimum wage of RM1,100 (53 per cent).

On the other hand, the number of voters who said that the government cash aid Bantuan Rakyat 1Malaysia (BR1M) would push them to support BN fell from 75 per cent in the period of September 2012 to January 2013, to just 52 per cent in April.

Najib (picture left) announced earlier this month that the BR1M payout, which is for families with a monthly income of less than RM3,000, would be gradually increased to RM1,200 from RM500.

According to the survey, BN's pledges that influenced voters to back the ruling coalition are the 1Malaysia clinic and store programmes (54 per cent), creating 3.3 million jobs in five years (47 per cent), building a million affordable homes (56 per cent), and reducing car prices gradually by 20 to 30 per cent (56 per cent).

The survey showed that more voters supported PR's pledge to give individual taxi permits (41 per cent), compared to the same promise by BN (38 per cent).

More voters perceived Anwar as having Islamic leadership qualities (43 per cent), compared to Najib (37 per cent).

A majority of voters at 62 per cent said that they were not influenced with sex videos involving opposition leaders, with 39 per cent believing them to be Umno propaganda.

UMCEDEL used the random sampling method with the results having a 2.61 per cent margin of error at the 95 per cent significance level and ran the survey using face-to-face interviews with Malay, Chinese and Indian respondents.

About 13.3 million Malaysians will cast their ballots in the May 5 polls, with 3.9 million new voters accounting for 23 per cent of total voters.

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