

**Najib Heads To The Polls With Popular Votes Favouring BN
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 3 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is expected to grab 50-53 per cent of the popular votes on Sunday, with the rural voters calling the shots.

International Islamic University Malaysia's (IIUM) head of the electoral studies unit Datuk Prof Dr Syed Arabi Idid said, for BN this would suffice to remain in Putrajaya.

The figure is based on the latest study conducted from April 6-14, involving 1,653 respondents nationwide and is the continuation of the earlier studies on the voter perception and political parties since 2010.

The former IIUM rector told Bernama, while BN was locked in a tough fight with Pakatan Rakyat (PR), the rural seats would decide the winner and this was where BN had the edge.

Pakatan derives its strength from urban and semi-urban seats but BN has greater strength in rural areas, as well as in a sizeable number of votes, especially when taking Sabah and Sarawak into account.

Moreover, 66 per cent of the respondents of the same study were satisfied with Najib's performance as prime minister.

The study also revealed that Najib's Economic Transformation Programme, Government Transformation Programme and schemes like BRIM and others have been well-received by the grassroots.

The recent BRIM2 was a good example where 80 per cent of the recipients were highly appreciative of the financial assistance and wanted the scheme to continue in the future.

Asked on the voting trends to be expected in the 13th General Election, Syed Arabi anticipates the average voter choosing different parties to represent them in the parliament and state assemblies.

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