

**Umno minister questions UMcedel's survey approach and methodology**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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**By JENNIFER GOMEZ**

The latest to weigh in on the removal of renowned political scientist Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Redzuan Othman from Universiti Malaya's Centre for Democracy and Elections (UMcedel) is Umno minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan (pic), who took to twitter to criticise the centre for being biased.

The Housing and Wellbeing Minister posted on his twitter handle @mpkotabelud "Apa kaitan kebebasan akademik dengan 'hobi' menganjur pungutan suara atau kajian sikap #UMICEDEL (What is the link between academic freedom and 'hobby' in carrying out surveys and opinion polls)

In a following post, he tagged @imokman "Since when asking a professor to leave a polling agency is an affront to academic freedom @Dr Zaini Ujang". @imokman is the twitter handle used by Serdang MP Ong Kian Ming.

Rahman Dahlan, who is the Kota Belud MP, further remarked on twitter that "UMCedel surveys sometimes touch on subjective political issues. Way beyond the normal academic scope. Political surveys do have biasness".

In yet another post, he said "UMCedel surveys do poke both sides. But I doubt the integrity of their survey methodology".

And in his latest remark he said that "those who attended UMCedel forums always come back with a feeling how biased UMCedel is in its survey approach and methodologies".

The minister's remarks are in contrast to the opinions of opposition politicians and students who felt Redzuan's removal was another blow to academic freedom and impartiality in public universities.

In reporting the removal this morning, The Malaysian Insider said that it was believed that Redzuan's work in UMcedel has sealed his fate at the university.

It was reported that over the last few years, UMcedel had irked Putrajaya with its various survey findings showing the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) in a bad light.

One survey which was said to have rattled the BN was conducted during the run-up to the 2013 general election, where its findings showed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak trailing behind opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The UMcedel poll showed that more than 60% of voters surveyed favoured Pakatan Rakyat's (PR) manifesto, compared to just 50% for BN's election pledges.

It also showed that 43% of respondents believed that Anwar was qualified to be prime minister, pipping Najib by four percentage points.

Najib had rubbished the findings and many BN supporters questioned the methodology used.

UMcedel in its reply noted that Najib had been pleased with earlier surveys after he had assumed office which painted a positive picture of him and the BN.

However, despite the projections, BN won the 13th general election but with a reduced majority, capturing 133 parliamentary seats. Pakatan, meanwhile, clinched 89 out of the 222 parliamentary seats.

Within the academic circles, it is common knowledge that Redzuan, a history professor, had often faced pressure from the Education Ministry over the centre's findings.

The Malaysian Insider learnt that Putrajaya was also unhappy with Redzuan for purportedly being opposition-friendly, although he had on many occasions explained it by saying, "where would I be without politicians".

Following the news of his removal, Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, the former deputy higher education minister, announced that he was quitting as senior research fellow at UM's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, in solidarity with Redzuan. – June 30, 2014.

- See more at:  
<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/umno-minister-questions-umcedels-survey-approach-and-methodologies#sthash.mdXjeR7J.dpuf>

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