

Sarawak Good Governance Public Opinion Survey 2015

Highlight of Survey Findings

In April 2015, the Center to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) commissioned Merdeka Center to undertake a small opinion poll among Sarawak voters and ask them about their views on corruption and assessment of the state leadership. The following are highlights from the survey findings:

Current Socio-Political Context

The Sarawak public is split about the direction of the state

- Many are concerned over rising costs and the GST but at the same time continue to feel confident due to the visible development activities prevalent in the state

Cost of Living and the Economy is top concern of voters

- Introduction of the GST has heightened concerns over the state of the economy and financial security of the public. Corruption is on immediate top of mind concern for voters

Government Action : Fight Corruption

- Despite other issues, Sarawakians see corruption as a problem that the government needs to tackle first along with job creation and expansion of public infrastructure

Assessment of Government and Leadership

Public is satisfied with the performance of the state government

- 68% of the public expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Sarawak state government

CM Adenan Satem approval rating at 74%

- Voters across the state expressed strong approval for the performance of Chief Minister Adenan Satem; the sentiments expressed transcended ethnicity and rural-urban dichotomies
- The high rating is prompted by his promise to improve governance, address the economic and infrastructure needs of the state as well as being more robust about protecting the state's interests

Public Perspectives on Governance

A large number of respondents did not understand "corruption" in great detail

- 37% reported that they did not know or could not describe what was meant by corruption

A majority believe that the state of corruption in the state is serious

- 56% of respondents say that the level of corruption in Sarawak is serious
- 19% believe that corruption levels have increased while 24% believe that corruption levels have stayed the same level as compared to a year ago.

A majority believe that the state government and chief minister is committed and possesses the political will to fight corruption

- 67% of respondents are confident in the chief minister's commitment to fight corruption; likewise a same percentage believed that the government has the political will to fight corruption.
- Most institutions are perceived to have issues with corruption

Personal Experiences with Corruption

- A majority of respondents learn about corruption from the media and friends
- About 26% report having been victimized or know of others who were affected by corruption
- 20% of respondents report having been approached or witnessed others engaging in money politics during the 2013 general election.
- 62% see money politics as corruption but low income respondent segment is split with some viewing it as gifts

Perspectives on Anti-Corruption Initiatives

- A majority of respondents held no views or solutions on how corruption could be reduced
- A large majority, 62% say they did not know where to report corruption cases
- A majority, 61% also disclosed fear in reporting corruption, out of concern of suffering retaliation while a similar number also believed no action would be taken from their complaints
- Awareness of civil society efforts against corruption is very low
- Yet a majority report confidence that corruption can be reduced in Sarawak

Methodology

- 606 respondents aged 21 and above were interviewed via telephone (landlines and mobile)
- Voters were selected through random stratified sampling method along the lines of ethnicity, gender, age and parliament constituencies.
- Respondents were interviewed in their own language of preference
- Survey margin of error estimated at $\pm 3.98\%$
- The survey was conducted on 10th to 24th April 2015