



News Release

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One year after GE15: PM's approval rating at 50%, Government 41% , Country Direction 31%

PETALING JAYA – As the administration marks its first year in office, Merdeka Center's late October 2023 survey found that one-half of Malaysian voters gave 10th Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim a positive approval rating compared to 68% attained in December 2022.

Reflecting on the difficult realities confronting the administration particularly over the economy, dissatisfaction rose to 43% from 19% in December 2022. At the same time, federal government (unity government) rating presently stands at 41% compared to 54% in December 2022. The dissatisfaction towards the federal government presently stands at 48%.

In our view, the movements in voter sentiments are largely driven by their concerns over the economy and how it affects their livelihoods. Only 31% of the voters think the country is heading in the right direction while 60% think it is heading in the wrong direction. The major reasons for the wrong direction are economic issues (56%), political instability (13%) and poor administration (9%).

In terms of their biggest concern, 78% of voters cite economic concerns as the number one issue faced by the people today.

The same survey also measured federal government performance on a few parameters and the findings as below:

Indicators	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Improving ethnic relations	55%	40%
Protecting the interests of the Malay community (Malay/Muslim respondents only)	50%	45%
Upholding the position of Islam (Malay/Muslim respondents only)	53%	41%
Improving government efficiency	44%	47%
Helping those in need	41%	54%
Upholding rule of law	39%	54%
Fighting corruption	37%	57%
Generating economic growth	32%	65%

In our opinion, the survey reflects the expectations held by the electorate on the administration to regenerate economic growth as well as address longstanding anxiety over inflation and tepid wage growth. Other issues that will shape public opinion into the future will include the form and

substance of potential subsidies withdrawal, new taxation as well as revamp in the cash transfers programme.

The survey was carried out by the Merdeka Center between 4th October to 24th October 2023 to gauge voters' perceptions of current developments. 1,220 registered voters comprising 52% Malay, 29% Chinese, 7% Indian, 6% Muslim Bumiputra, 6% Non-Muslim Bumiputra, (from Sabah and Sarawak), reflective of the national electoral profile, were interviewed via fixed line and mobile telephones. Respondents were selected on the basis of random stratified sampling along age group, ethnicity, gender and state constituency. The poll was funded by Merdeka Center's internally generated financial resources.

About Merdeka Center

Merdeka Center was formally established in 2001 as an independent organization focused on public opinion research and socio-economic analysis. Merdeka Center's mission is to act as a bridge between ordinary Malaysians and other stakeholders with the leading members of the nation – by collecting public opinion studies and expressing them through survey results, analysis and position papers. For details, visit: www.merdeka.org

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