



News Release

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Mid-term survey of the Madani administration: PM's approval rating at 55%

PETALING JAYA – As the Madani administration marks the midpoint of its term in office, Merdeka Center's survey carried out in May 2025 found that a majority of Malaysian voters gave Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim a positive approval rating of 55%.

Several factors may contribute towards this positive outlook - Malaysians are beginning to feel that the country is finally on steadier ground, political turbulence has eased and Anwar now leads a government with a two-thirds parliamentary majority. Institutional reforms like the revived Parliamentary Services Act 2025 also signal a return to principled governance.

In terms of the economy, government data indicates that inflation has cooled to just 1.4% in March 2025 - a three-year low - and economic growth hit 4.4% in the first quarter. The government's minimum wage hike to RM1,700, combined with festive cash aid for civil servants and ongoing fuel subsidies, has helped ease some public frustration over the cost of living. While the survey continues to show that the public's top concerns remain the economy, the absence of price shocks despite the withdrawal of diesel fuel subsidies in 2024, has helped ease sentiments.

Meanwhile, Anwar has enhanced Malaysia's global profile. Hosting China's President Xi Jinping and chairing ASEAN in 2025 gave him a diplomatic spotlight. New investment deals, trade cooperation and leadership in Global South initiatives have bolstered his image at home.

Still, bread-and-butter issues - not foreign policy or speeches - remain what moves the Malaysian public most. With daily costs softening and jobs more secure, more voters are giving the Prime Minister and the government the benefit of the doubt.

At the same time, federal government rating stands at 50% in May 2025 compared to 40% in June 2024. Dissatisfaction towards the federal government stands at 48% compared to 58% a year ago. The tight spread between positives and negatives are largely driven by persistent concerns about cost of living pressures and some anxiety over subsidy cuts slated to take place in the near future.

50% of the voters surveyed think the country is headed in the wrong direction (compared to 61% one year ago), while the number of voters that think the country is heading in the right direction improved to 43% compared to 29% in June 2024. The major reasons for the wrong direction remain focused on trajectory of the national economy and the performance of the current administration.

The survey was carried out by the Merdeka Center between 12th and 23rd May 2025 to gauge voters' perceptions of current developments. 1,208 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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