



PRESS RELEASE

5th May 2018

PRE-14TH MALAYSIAN GENERAL ELECTION SURVEY FOR YOUTH VOTERS: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

The Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) conducted a survey entitled a “Study on Youth Concerns & Political Awareness” between 1st April 2018 to 26th April 2018. With the impending 14th Malaysian General Elections (GE14), CPPS sought to identify and understand concerns of the youngest segment of Malaysian voters. The survey also aimed to gauge the level of political awareness of this group of voters. Respondents were aged between 21-30 years old. The below are the preliminary findings:

HIGHLIGHTS

How well respondents recognised party symbols

- The survey found that Barisan Nasional was the most recognised party symbol (98.51% respondents recognised), followed by the Democratic Action Party (94.44%), Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (86.99%), the People’s Justice Party (68.4% recognised correctly as PKR and 17.84% recognised as the Pakatan Harapan symbol – a total of 86.24%). Parti Cinta Malaysia (63.94%) is the fifth most recognised party symbol (however, it is likely the high rate is due to the fact that the responses were available in multiple choice and its party symbol had the words ‘Cinta Malaysia’ in its centre. For the purpose of testing respondents, all words and abbreviations were removed with the exception of Parti Cinta Malaysia).
- It was found that 9.71% of Pakatan Harapan’s supporters misidentified the PKR symbol or did not know which symbol is used by Pakatan Harapan in GE14.

Issues and policies that matter to respondents

- The top 5 issues that matter most to respondents were:
 1. *Elimination of corruption*
 2. *Reducing cost of living*
 3. *Improve quality of education*
 4. *Improve safety and crime prevention*
 5. *Greater access to good and affordable medical care*
- 7.43% of respondents indicated that they support a race-based quota system in public universities, 79.93% do not support, while 12.64% were undecided or have no opinion.
- 62.08% do not support the moderation of Internet freedom, such as the Fake News Act.
- 21.19% support replacing the GST with the SST, 25.65% did not support, and 53.16% were undecided or have no opinion.
- 62.45% supported greater autonomy for Sabah and Sarawak.
- 74.72% do not support laws which allow detention without trial.
- 56.13% support of extending elections of local government.
- 30.48% support of abolishing petrol subsidies and implement a price float. 33.83% do not and 35.69% are undecided or have no opinion.
- Putting aside whether claims are true or false, 91.08% of respondents acknowledge that issues like 1MDB and other alleged scandals of corruption worry them.

Perception and level of Satisfaction

- 55.39% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that Malaysia has a fair legal system.
- 57.99% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that Malaysia's education system is improving.
- 80.3% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that the Election Commission is fair and independent.
- 84.75% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that the police are free of political interference.
- 81.05% of respondents agree and strongly agree that they were worried about the difficulty of purchasing a home.
- 94.42% of respondents view current levels of corruption in Malaysia as high and very high.
- 75.84% of respondents view current levels of crime in Malaysia as high and very high.
- 7.06% were happy with how the country is governed, while 92.94% were not. 38.66% were happy with how their state or federal territory is governed and 61.34% were not. 48.33% were happy of how their towns/cities are governed and 51.67% were not.

Awareness of Manifestos

- 59.85% of respondents indicated that they know of Pakatan Harapan's plans if they win GE14.
- 42.75% of respondents indicated that they know of Barisan Nasional's plans if they win GE14.

Voting Trends

- At the point of undertaking the survey, 46.10% of respondents did not know where their polling station were.
- 67.66% of respondents are aware of the Election Commission's recent redelineation exercise.
- 19.7% of respondents were not registered to vote, despite being of the eligible age.
- 19.33% indicated they will not be voting, while 7.81% were undecided.
- Of all respondents who are of the voting age during GE13, 45.33% did not vote in the last general elections. However, of *all respondents whom did not vote in GE13*, 64.71% will be voting in the coming GE14, 23.53% still will not be voting, and 11.76% undecided.
- 50.19% of respondents indicated that they will not vote for a party if they do not know the candidate's background. 30.11% will still vote despite not knowing the candidate, while the remaining 19.7% were undecided.
- When asked if they will vote for a candidate regardless of which party he or she is from, 43.87% of respondents indicated "yes", 42.75% said "no", and 13.75% were undecided.

CPPS was also keen to understand the concerns of Malay voters which comprise the largest segment of voters and the Malaysian population. Of all the entire Malay sample, it found that:

- 52.44% agree and strongly agree that their culture is facing destruction due to Western influence, 21.95% disagree and strongly disagree, while 25.61% neither agree nor disagree.
- 24.39% disagree and strongly disagree that their culture is facing destruction due to Arab influence, while 37.8% agree and strongly agree, and 37.8% neither agree nor disagree.
- 53.66% disagree and strongly disagree that their culture is facing destruction due to the English language.

- 68.3% disagree and strongly disagree that their culture is facing destruction due to other ethnic cultures in Malaysia.
- 54.88% disagree and strongly disagree that Islam is under threat by other religions.
- 17.07% of all Malay respondents support a race-based quota system for public universities, 57.32% did not support, 25.61% are undecided or have no opinion.

Sample Group

There is a total of 269 respondents aged between 21-30 years old. 175 (65.05%) are based in the Klang Valley (Kuala Lumpur and Selangor), 72 (26.77%) rest of Peninsula Malaysia, 14 (5.2%) Sabah & Sarawak, 8 (2.97%) outside Malaysia. The sample consist 82 Malays, 163 Chinese, 14 Indian, 1 Iban, 1 Kadazan-Dusun, 1 Orang Asli (Peninsula Malaysia), and 7 persons of other ethnicities or mixed heritage.

The full report of the survey will be made available by the end of May 2018.

- ENDS -

APPENDIX

Table 1: How well respondents recognised party symbols

	Party	Recognised correctly	Did not know	Got it wrong
1	National Front (Barisan Nasional)	98.51%	0.74%	0.74%
2	Democratic Action Party (DAP)	94.44%	1.85%	3.7%
3	Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS)	86.99%	11.15%	1.86%
4	People's Justice Party (PKR)	17.84% as Pakatan Harapan symbol 68.4% as PKR symbol Total = 86.24%	2.97%	10.78%
5	Love Malaysia Party (Parti Cinta Malaysia)	63.94%	31.97%	4.09%
6	National Trust Party (Amanah)	49.81%	42.01%	8.18%
7	Malaysian Socialist Party (PSM)	44.98%	37.17%	17.84%
8	Malaysian United Indigenous Party (BERSATU)	37.92%	44.98%	17.1%
9	State Reformed Party (STAR)	23.79%	65.43%	10.78%
10	Sabah Heritage Party (WARISAN)	23.42%	67.66%	8.92%
11	Malaysia National Alliance Party (IKATAN)	18.22%	72.49%	9.29%
12	Pan-Malaysia Islamic Front (BERJASA)	16.36%	62.83%	20.82%

Note: Party symbols were also displayed in greyscale to simulate an election ballot.

Table 2: Top issues that matter to respondents

1	Elimination of corruption
2	Reducing cost of living
3	Improve quality of education
4	Improve safety and crime prevention
5	Greater access to good and affordable medical care
6	Reduce national debt
7	Improve national cohesion amongst the various ethnic groups
8	Improve job opportunities
9	Ability to purchase housing
10	Improve public transportation
11	Improve wealth and prosperity
12	Improve equal opportunity and the rights of women in all areas of life
13	Improve infrastructure and welfare in non-urban and interior areas
14	Improve care for the environment
15	Protection of national sovereignty from external influences

Note: From Highest (1) to Lowest (15) priority

Table 3: Level of perception

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
We have a fair legal system	2.23%	14.87%	27.51%	40.15%	15.24%
The education system in Malaysia is improving	0.74%	19.7%	21.56%	42.38%	15.61%
We have a fair and independent Election Commission	0%	4.83%	14.87%	41.64%	38.66%
Our police are free of political interference	0%	3.35%	11.90%	45.72%	39.03%
I am worried about the difficulty of purchasing a home	50.19%	30.86%	12.64%	4.83%	1.49%
	Very high	High	Neither high nor low	Low	Very low
How do you view current levels of corruption in Malaysia?	58.36%	36.06%	5.2%	0%	0.37%
How do you view current levels of crime in Malaysia?	18.59%	57.25%	22.68%	1.12%	0.37%

Table 4: Level of satisfaction

	Yes	No
Are you happy with how the country is governed?	7.06%	92.94%
Are you happy with how your state/federal territory is governed?	38.66%	61.34%
Are you happy with how your town/city is governed?	48.33%	51.67%

Table 5: How much do you identify with the following statements? (Overall)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Destruction of my culture to Western influence	7.06%	20.82%	32.34%	27.14%	12.27%
Destruction of my culture to Arab influence	8.55%	19.7%	33.09%	23.42%	15.24%
Destruction of my culture due to the English language	3.72%	10.78%	24.91%	30.11%	30.11%
Destruction of my culture due to other ethnic cultures in Malaysia	2.6%	10.78%	21.56%	31.23%	33.83%
My religion is under threat by other religions	17.47%	23.79%	24.16%	8.18%	26.39%
My religion is under threat by secularism	7.43%	13.01%	33.09%	21.56%	24.54%
My religion is under threat by liberalism	7.81%	13.38%	33.09%	21.93%	23.42%
My religion is under threat from itself	10.41%	16.36%	30.11%	19.33%	23.42%
Other religions are under threat by my religion	5.58%	14.13%	26.77%	23.05%	30.48%

Note: 0.37% margin of error

Table 6: How much do you identify with the following statements? (Malay Respondents)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Destruction of my culture to Western influence	17.07%	35.37%	25.61%	17.07%	4.88%
Destruction of my culture to Arab influence	14.63%	23.17%	37.8%	19.51%	4.88%
Destruction of my culture due to the English language	2.44%	12.2%	31.71%	29.27%	24.39%
Destruction of my culture due to other ethnic cultures in Malaysia	1.22%	6.1%	24.39%	32.93%	35.37%
My religion is under threat by other religions	3.66%	6.1%	35.37%	21.95%	32.93%
My religion is under threat by secularism	10.98%	13.41%	36.59%	13.41%	25.61%
My religion is under threat by liberalism	14.63%	15.85%	28.05%	17.07%	24.39%
My religion is under threat from itself	20.73%	26.83%	25.61%	12.2%	14.63%
Other religions are under threat by my religion	7.32%	24.39%	31.71%	19.51%	17.07%

Table 7: What is your view on the following policies? (Overall)

Policy	Support	Do not Support	Undecided/ No opinion
A race-based quota system in university	7.43%	79.93%	12.64%
Moderation of Internet freedom (ie. Fake News Act)	24.54%	62.08%	13.38%
Replacing GST with SST	21.19%	25.65%	53.16%
Greater autonomy for Sabah and Sarawak	62.45%	13.75%	23.79%
Laws which allow detention without trial	9.67%	74.72%	15.61%
Democratic elections extended to local government (ie. Majlis Bandaraya / Perbandaran)	56.13%	14.13%	29.74%
Abolish petrol subsidies and introduce a price float	30.48%	33.83%	35.69%

Table 8: Do the following matter to you when voting a candidate?

	Yes	No	Undecided
The religion of a candidate	17.47%	77.32%	5.2%
The fervency of religious practice of a candidate	31.97%	58.74%	9.29%
The race/ethnicity of a candidate	14.5%	81.78%	3.72%
The morality of the candidate	95.17%	4.09%	0.74%
The political party from which the candidate represents	71.38%	20.82%	7.81%
The policy decision of a candidate	94.8%	3.72%	1.49%
The competency of a candidate	92.57%	3.72%	3.35%

The Centre for Public Policy Studies is an independent and non-partisan think tank that aims at fostering open-minded dialogue, enlightened leadership and better governance. The belief underpinning the establishment of CPPS is that the challenges of building a cohesive, competitive and successful multi-racial Malaysian society can best be met by open discussion buttressed by rigorous analytical work and a spirit of tolerance and respect for the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders in the country. Political trends in the regional and international arena may also have a micro or macro impact on society and thus the need for rigorous analysis, policy recommendations, and continuous revision.



Contact

Voon Zhen Yi
Manager, Programme & Research,
(60) 012-265 4772 | voon@asli.com.my or voon@cpps.org.my