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TN50. Towards a united and prosperous multi-racial Malaysia - survey

KUALA LUMPUR - A national survey conducted by KAJIDATA Research revealed that 92.8% of Malaysians are proud of living in a multi-racial and multi-cultural country.

As more and more people are jumping into the TN50 bandwagon, a survey amongst Malaysians was conducted to ascertain what Malaysians thought of it. With a focus on unity and prosperity, the study covered many aspects under the TN50 programme in order to gauge the Rakyat's perception on unity in Malaysia, government's efforts to promote unity, unity and prosperity through culture & religion, politics, education, family, neighbourhood, media technology and patriotism.

Majority are for unity and prosperity.

When asked what unity meant, 37.4% from the 1,025 Malaysians surveyed said that unity means communities that are cooperative and united. 32.0% said multi-racial communities living in harmony and 29.0% responded that unity means to be tolerant towards one another.

The government and its efforts to foster unity.

When probed on the government's efforts to promote unity, 80.9% agreed that Bahasa Melayu is able to foster unity amongst Malaysians. 88.1% supports efforts by the government to celebrate multicultural festivities in order to promote the spirit of harmony in Malaysia. 82.4% supports efforts in providing scholarships regardless of race and religion and 75.1% supports the different types of schools. Nonetheless, the respondents were divided on this issue with 41.4% stating that they support the stream-lining of the different types of schools and 47.4% are opposed to the idea.

Culture and religion are elements of unity.

Out of the 1,025 Malaysians surveyed, an overwhelming 96.9% indicated that they respect other cultures other than their own. When queried, 80% agreed that Malaysia is a multi-faith country that guarantees freedom to religion. Further questioning revealed that 82.5% agrees Islam as the official religion of Malaysia. When asked if they celebrate other religions' festivities, only 17.7% said that they do not while 72.7% suggested that they do.

Family and neighbourhood are the building blocks of unity and prosperity.

Further along the study, respondents were asked if they preferred their neighbours to be of the same race. Only 19.3% said yes, 8.0% were unsure and the balance 72.6% disagreed with a mono-ethnic neighbourhood. This was exemplified when 95.7% of the respondents surveyed indicated that they encourage their children and/or family members to befriend people of

different ethnicity. In efforts to coalesce the society, 94.6% these respondents supports the idea that the newer generations should mingle regardless of skin colour and religion.

Malaysians are proud to be Malaysians.

KAJIDATA Advisor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Syed Arabi Idid summarised that even though Malaysia is going through an 'identity phase', majority of Malaysians are opposed to the idea of a polarised country. With a resounding 'Yes', 93.5% of Malaysians indicated that they were willing to fight and stand up for the country. This is a good indication that Malaysians want to reconcile and progress as a united people and country.

The opinion poll was carried out by KAJIDATA Research Sdn. Bhd. The poll was conducted from 8 March 2017 to 17 March 2017 to determine what unity and prosperity really meant to the general public of Malaysia.

A total of 1,025 Malaysian adults aged 18 and above comprising of 58.0% Malays, 23.2% Chinese, 7.5% Indians, 6.0% Bumiputra Sabah, 4.2% Bumiputra Sarawak, 0.1% Orang Asli and 1.0% Others were interviewed by telephone in the poll. Respondents were selected on the basis of random stratified sampling along ethnicity, gender, age and state according to the national demographics. The survey was conducted via Computer Aided Telephone Interview (CATI). The complete cross-tabulation report can be obtained by contacting KAJIDATA Research.

About KAJIDATA Research

KAJIDATA Research specialises in Commercial and Social Intelligence. Established in 2015 as an independent organisation, KAJIDATA has a healthy mix of trained and qualified professionals that specialises in conducting nationwide qualitative and quantitative research. KAJIDATA's mission is to effectively acquire and see beyond data and unearth actionable insights. For details, visit: www.kajidata.com

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