

Poll shows majority proud of Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR "I'm proud to be Malaysian." This is what Malaysians said in a nationwide survey on patriotism held in the run-up to the 59th National Day celebration on Wednesday.

In the telephone survey, conducted by KajiDATA Research and involving 1,000 respondents from different ethnic, religious and age groups, and education and income levels, people were also cautious of the country's economic and security outlook.

KajiDATA Research business consultant A. Yazid Othman said the survey was aimed at gauging Malaysians' opinion of the country, immediate concerns and knowledge of Merdeka figures and dates through a set of questions prepared by KajiDATA adviser Professor Datuk Sri Dr Syed Arabi Idid.

The survey showed that a majority of Malaysians (77.2 per cent) knew that Malaysia's first leader was Tunku Abdul Rahman while 84.3 per cent were aware that the nation achieved its independence in 1957.

While most respondents had pride in their country, those in Kuala Lumpur and Kedah were not confident of the nation's ability to pull through or face challenges in

the future.

A significant number of respondents, especially those in Pahang and Sabah, were concerned about national security and crime rates.

The concerns about economy have far-reaching implications on Malaysians' spending pattern.

In the next six months, 71 per cent of the respondents said, they would

not travel abroad, buy a new house (81 per cent), purchase a new car (83 per cent) or start or extend a family (76 per cent).

Many were concerned about job security and said they did not intend to change profession (86 per cent).

The positive aspect is that many of the respondents

(66.8 per cent) were confident of facing challenges.

Syed Arabi said the survey showed that although Malaysians were proud of their country, they were realists as well.

They were aware of the headwinds the country was facing and were prepared to face the challenges.

Established last year, KajiDATA Research specialises in commercial and social intelligence.

Its mission is to effectively acquire and unearth actionable insights.

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67pc

Percentage of Malaysians confident of facing challenges
KajiDATA Research