

**SARAWAK STATE ELECTION 2011: SURVEY OF VOTERS' BEHAVIOUR IN BN  
CRITICAL AREAS OF N9 PADUNGAN, N10 PENDING, N24 BETING MARO, N26  
BUKIT BEGUNAN, N28 ENGKELILI AND N30 SARIBAS**



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## **4. Enhanced Research Title and Objectives**

### **Original Title as Proposed:**

Sarawak State Election 2011: Trend of Voters' Behaviour in BN Critical Areas Padungan, Pending, Batu Lintang, Kota Sentosa, Bukit Assek and Meradong.

### **Improved/Enhanced Title:**

Sarawak State Election 2011: Survey on Voters' Behaviour in BN Critical Areas of N9 Padungan, N10 Pending, N24 Beting Maro, N26 Bukit Begunan, N28 Engkelili and N30 Saribas.

### **Original Objectives as Proposed:**

- (i) To understand the development and voting preferences of voters in BN Critical Areas.
- (ii) To investigate the level of acceptance of voters towards political parties that originates from outside Sarawak.

### **Improved/Enhanced Objectives:**

- (i) To determine factors that contribute to Malay, Chinese and Dayak voters' decision; whether candidates personality or loyalty towards political parties.
- (ii) To investigate the level of acceptance of voters in those critical areas towards political parties that originate from outside Sarawak.

## **5. Report**

### **5.1 Proposed Executive Summary**

Sarawak held its ninth state election on May 20, 2006. Even though the Barisan Nasional won 62 out of the 71 seats, it was considered a major loss when compared with the victory of previous 2001 state election when the BN won 60 out of the 62 seats.

Several factors have been accredited to the reasons behind BN's significant drop in electoral seats; land lease, increase of living standards, increase of oil prices, etc. The 2006 elections also made a rather significant impact on the 2008 Federal elections in particularly the Chinese voters. Several states in Peninsular Malaysia i.e Penang, Perak, Kedah and Selangor previously known to be BN's strongholds were lost to the opposition. Even though BN managed to retain its majority in Sarawak, the one seat won (Kuching) and maintained by opposition received a substantial increase of four-fold in votes from the 2001 state election.

This figure signify a clear message to the BN that voters were serious about making a change and that they were willing to take a risk with the opposition in order to get more attention from the BN component party. With the upcoming General election, which is rumoured to be held simultaneously with Sarawak's state election (at the latest by April 21<sup>st</sup> if it were to occur), BN Sarawak in particular SUPP will be facing its most challenging election.

In view of that, this research will seek to examine Sarawak voters' behaviour in BN critical areas of N9 Padungan, N10 Pending, N24 Beting Maro, N26 Bukit Begunan, N28 Engkelili and N30 Saribas

## **5.2 Enhanced Executive Summary**

Sarawak is considered as the strong hold of Barisan Nasional (BN). Henceforth, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is very keen on capturing Sarawak. Results in the 2006 state election have been alarming and many people expected similar if not more challenging times for the BN in Sarawak. Even though BN managed to retain two-thirds majority seats (55 out of 71) during SSE2011, it was still considered a major loss. This was evident when the opposition managed to increase their seats in the state legislative assembly to 16 from nine during the 2006 Sarawak State Election.

The objectives of this study is to investigate the voting behaviour of the different races in BN Critical Areas of N9 Padungan, N10 Pending, N24 Beting Maro, N26 Bukit Begunan, N28 Engkelili and N30 Saribas, pertaining to factors such as candidate's personality and voters' loyalty to political parties of their choice.

Furthermore, this study looks into the level of acceptance of Sarawakians towards political parties that originated from outside Sarawak i.e. Democratic Action Party (DAP), Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) and Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS).