

Economists want a bold, decisive PM

THE NATION

MOST ECONOMISTS believe the most favourable qualities the new prime minister should resonate with are boldness, decisiveness and being reform-minded, according to a Bangkok Poll released yesterday.

The survey of 60 economists from the country's 31 top institutions showed that 65 per cent want a PM who is decisive and makes reform the first priority, while 10 per cent want a PM who has the ability to strike a compromise between conflicting parties.

Forty-one per cent believe the new PM should not serve more than one year and 20 per cent said, the PM should not serve

longer than six months.

Asked if politicians should be allowed to take part in the reform process, 36.7 per cent believe they should because they know the problems best and reform without their involvement may be later rejected.

Another 36.7 per cent of respondents believe politicians should not be allowed to take part because reform should be free from political influence and politicians always want to protect their interests.

Corruption is what economists see as the most important goal of reform (41.5 per cent), followed by reform of land and inheritance tax (29.6 per cent), which they believe would help bridge economic disparity and raise income distribution.

For education reform, economists want all students to have equal education opportunities and improve their English skills (34.5 per cent).

Most of the economists expect that Thailand post-reform will be a country free from corruption and nepotism.

The next most popular answers were a country with strong unity and a country without vote-buying

and populist policies.

Meanwhile Dusit Poll yesterday revealed the top ten questions most people wanted National Council for Peace and Order chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha to answer.

1. How long will it take to bring the country back to a normal situation and when will the curfew be lifted?

2. Will there be an election and when?

3. How are you going to reform the country and solve the current conflicts?

4. How will you solve the price rise of gas, petrol and electricity?

5. How will offenders of lese majesty and corruption offences be prosecuted?

6. How can you increase economic confidence, solve economic problems and prepare the country for the Asean Economic Community?

7. How will you reform education to get quality people and provide equal education opportunities?

8. How will you help farmers and solve their debt problems?

9. How will you improve public safety?

10. Will you become PM and what problems do you regard as difficult?