

SURVEY

Public support for cabinet reshuffle surges in polls

POST REPORTERS

Most people believe the government will increase public confidence if it decides to reshuffle the cabinet, a recent poll carried out by the Research Institute of Bangkok University suggests.

The so-called Bangkok Poll surveyed 1,111 people nationwide on Tuesday and Wednesday, with up to 79.6% of respondents saying a cabinet reshuffle would help improve the government's performance.

The majority of the poll respondents (59.8%) also said Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha will have their support if he decides to reshuffle his cabinet, as they are losing confidence in the current cabinet.

However, 24.3% of the poll's respondents disagreed with the idea of reshuffling the military-installed cabinet, arguing the current cabinet already worked well.

Meanwhile, Gen Wilas Arunsri, the

prime minister's secretary-general, dismissed media rumours that he had submitted his resignation letter.

Finance Minister Sommai Phasee said speculation about a possible cabinet reshuffle was an attempt to discredit the government.

"This is not nice. Even though government didn't come [to power] through an election, some people are spreading rumours about a cabinet reshuffle. That is way too much," Mr Sommai said.

This type of conjecture has worried investors and had a negative impact on the stock exchange market, he said.

However, the minister also admitted that part of the economic slump stems from the slow disbursement of economic stimulation packages, due to bureaucratic red tape, despite Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's instructions to speed up the payments.

Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan, a former

Pheu Thai Party key figure, also dismissed rumours that she had received an invitation to become an adviser to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

She also denied any discussions with the NCPO in Nakhon Ratchasima last week over the possibility of setting up a so-called national government.

She said she didn't know if any other Pheu Thai key figures had spoken to the NCPO on the matter.