

POLITICS

Populist policies get thumbs up

Most people want to see election campaigns highlighting populist policies with an emphasis on solving economic issues, a survey has revealed.

The Bangkok Poll conducted by Bangkok University on Sept 6-7 approached 1,156 people aged 18 and over with various levels of education and occupations throughout the country.

Asked whether they think past political campaigns which emphasised populist policies were suitable, a majority (59%) said "no" because such policies benefited only some groups of people; 32.4% said "yes" as the policies helped improved people's livelihoods; and 7.7% were uncertain.

However, when asked whether they want to see populist policies touted in election campaigns, 64.2% said "yes" on condition the policies are used constructively to solve economic problems, shoring up farm prices and improving education; 31.6% said "no"; and, 4.2% were uncertain.

To the question of which party they would vote for if an election was held today, 16.9% said they would vote for the Democrat Party (a drop from 22.7% in May 2016).

This was followed by 15.3% support for Pheu Thai (a drop from 19.1%); 1.2% for Charthaipattana (a drop from 2.1%); and 52.6% were undecided.

Asked who would they elect as prime minister if today was the election day, 26.6% said they would vote for Prayut Chan-o-cha; 3.8% for Yingluck Shinawatra; and 3.7% for Abhisit Vejjajiva.