Bangkok Post

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Ad Rate: 1,500

Circulation: 70.000

Section: First Section/NATIONAL

Date: Friday 21 June 2013

Volume: - No: - Page: 4(Left)

Col.Inch: 11.87 Ad Value: 17,805 PRValue (x3): 53,415

Clip: Full Color

Column: THE ROUND-UP: Corruption tops list of problems



Corruption tops list of problems

Nearly two-thirds of economists who responded to a recent poll pointed to graft as the country's most serious problem, Bangkok Poll said yesterday.

The Bangkok University-based pollster said opinions were sought from 63 economists at 31 leading economic organisations between June 11 and Tuesday.

It reported that 63.5% of respondents thought corruption is the most serious problem as it could lead to an economic crisis if the government fails to act against it. The pollster said 69.9% of the economists also wanted the government to keep a close watch on household debt, and 63.5% pointed to the need to monitor public debt.

The government should give priority to reviewing, changing or revoking its populist policies, they said.

For the rice-pledging scheme, the government should set a clear-cut budget for each harvest year, base the pledging system on market prices, and set up zoning for rice growing areas covered by the scheme, the economists said.

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