

Abhisit enjoys a surge in popularity: Bangkok poll

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DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADER Abhisit Vejjajiva's popularity has jumped while Pheu Thai Party leader Yingluck Shinawatra's is waning, according to a new Bangkok Poll.

The poll showed Abhisit's popularity had increased by 5.6 per cent – from 18.4 in March to 24 now. Yingluck's popularity had plunged by 4.5 per cent – from 22.3 per cent to 18.4 per cent.

Most people want the Prayuth government to complete its mission in all areas, even if it takes more than a year.

Of the 1,170 respondents, 66 per cent wanted the government to keep going even if it took more than a year while 33.6 per cent wanted it to finish up within a year and call a general election.

Countering corruption is the issue that most people want the Prayuth government to tackle successfully within a year, with 30.8 per cent of respondents stating that, followed by boasting the economy (30.1 per cent) and

healing divisions in the country (19.8 per cent).

Former Democrat MP for Phitsanulok Dr Warong Dechgitvigrom believes Pheu Thai's sagging popularity stems from corruption allegations in relation to scrapped rice-pledging scheme.

Warong welcomed the rising popularity of the Democrats, but warned the party not to say anything that could cause national divisions.

He said the National Council for Peace and Order should keep its promise and finish its mission within a year and return power to the people through an election.

Warong also hailed Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's decision to scrap the purchase of a controversial sound system for the Cabinet meeting room. The 89 microphones, which were to come with LCD screens, had been quoted at Bt145,000 each.

The decision to stop the purchase followed public opposition and speculation about corruption.