

# Politics to blame for bombings, arson: poll

## PRAYUT'S AND GOVT'S PERFORMANCE RATINGS HIT ALL-TIME HIGH IN SURVEY

THE SUNDAY NATION

THE VAST majority of people surveyed in a new poll are convinced that the Mother's Day bomb and arson attacks in seven provinces were politically motivated.

Super Poll conducted the survey on 1,537 people from Monday to Friday and found that 85 per cent of respondents believed political groups were involved in the attacks, while 83 per cent said the political situation was under control.

Seventy-six per cent believed the perpetrators would be arrested, 95 per cent said love and unity was the solution to the country's security issues and 4.7 per cent believed unity was not the solution.

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents said hotline 191 must be overhauled because it failed to swiftly respond to the emergency situation, 65 per cent said there were no communication issues between the system and the people who filed complaints and 63 per cent said the hotline did not have a follow-up system.

Another 53 per cent said the hotline was hard to reach because its telephone lines were always busy, 49 per cent blamed poor city planning and a lack of knowledge among concerned officials in local areas about the hotline's issues, and 10 per cent said the hotline's staff were not polite and did not provide good service.

Meanwhile, in the latest Bangkok Poll, the Prayut Chan-o-cha govern-

ment received a 6.19 score out of 10 for its two-year job approval rating, which is an improvement on the 12-month and 18-month ratings.

The government scored 5.94 in its first year and 5.92 in its first 18 months.

In the latest survey, its scores increased in all areas except national security, which dropped from 7.1 to 7.04.

Prime Minister Prayut scored 7.57 for his performance, an increase over the 7.24 for his first 18 months in the job.

Prayut got his highest score for decisiveness with 8.23. His lowest score, 6.54, was for creativity in developing new projects.

Asked what task they want Prayut to complete first before a general election is held, 24.5 per cent of respondents wanted him to improve the people's quality of life and social welfare, and reduce the cost of living; 20 per cent emphasised tackling corruption and 11 per cent wanted water supply for the agriculture sector and shoring up of agricultural produce prices.

In a related development, Pheu Thai Party caretaker deputy secretary-general Chavalit Wichayasut urged the government not to instigate a new round of political conflict by allowing television programmes to jump to conclusions about the attacks in the seven provinces without evidence to support their allegations and while the investigation was ongoing.

He urged the government to take action against the offending stations.

He congratulated the family of Sakkarin Karuehat, a suspect detained on suspicion of involvement in an arson attack at a hyper-market in Nakhon Si Thammarat province, after the charges against him were dismissed and he was release from custody.

■ **MINISTRY RESPONDS TO UNHCR 2**