

Better economy tops Thais' wish-list for 2016

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THE NATION

MOST people hope Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha can fix the nation's economic downturns, rising living costs, and unemployment, according to a Bangkok poll result released yesterday.

The survey was conducted between December 9-14 last year on the subject of "New Year gifts that people expect from the PM".

Of 1,189 people surveyed in Bangkok and suburbs, 34 per cent wished Prayut would solve the economy, cost of living and unemployment issues; 16 per cent wanted Thailand to be peaceful and united; and 10 per cent hoped for a general election to happen soon.

Asked what they wanted the government to reform most, 39 per cent wished to see economic reforms, cost of living and controls on the price of products; more than 18 per cent wanted anti-corruption reform; and more than 9 per cent looked forward to political reforms to bring about reconciliation.

The people's hopes for economic improvement were reflected in a Suan Dusit Poll result also released yesterday. The survey was conducted with 1,206 people nationwide between December 25, 2015 and January 2, 2016 on "Thai people's expectations in 2016".

Asked what they expected from the Thai economy, more than 82 per cent said they wanted to see an enhanced economy with fluidity and a strong Thai currency; 77 per cent wanted revival of tourism, trade and exports; and around 63 per cent desired more relief with living costs and wage issues.

Asked what they expected in politics, 79 per cent wanted a stable and united government, 73 per cent wished to see good, creative and democratic politics, and more than 55 per cent wanted good, qualified and incorruptible politicians.

Asked what they thought could be truly achieved in 2016, more than 76 per cent said enhanced living quality, more than 70 per cent thought of a peaceful and united society, and 67 per cent hoped for solutions to national problems.

Asked what they thought could not be achieved by this year, 81 per cent said it would be eradication of corruption, more than 75 per cent thought of better living security and the southern Thailand insurgency, and almost 75 per cent thought of effective law enforcement.