

POLL ANALYSIS:

Three Months of the Paetongtarn Government

Suan Dusit Poll surveyed a sample of 1,162 people (online and field survey) Between December 10 - 13, 2024

KEY FINDINGS:



49.38%

The strengths lie in having experienced advisors



54.99%

There is a lack of confidence in the government's economic solutions



71.44%

The most tangible policy outcome is the 10,000-baht cash handout



70.84%

There is a desire for urgent action to address the cost of living



49.14%

A message to the Prime Minister: prioritize economic recovery

The poll results reflect that the performance of the Paetongtarn government over the past three months remains inconclusive, with some perceiving it as falling short of expectations. While short-term policies have generated a certain level of public satisfaction, the government, known for its experienced advisors and reputation for ensuring that “Thais have enough to eat and spend”, faces growing public expectations. Citizens now anticipate more “clear communication, tangible results, and visible change.”



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The strength lies in the advisors, but their performance remains to be proven

49.38% of respondents identified the Paetongtarn administration's key strength as having experienced advisors, followed by 37.17% who highlighted the Cabinet's unity and shared direction. However, in the first three months, the majority felt the government's performance could not yet be assessed (39.85%), while 28.14% believed the performance fell short of expectations. Only 7.05% stated that the performance exceeded their expectations. Regarding confidence in economic problem-solving, 54.99% of respondents expressed a lack of confidence, while 45.01% still maintained trust. This reflects the need for the government to deliver tangible results, particularly in economic matters, to restore public confidence.

The cash handout policy stands out, but addressing the cost of living remains an urgent priority

Over the past three months, respondents identified the 10,000-baht cash handout policy as the most tangible outcome (71.44%), followed by efforts to stimulate tourism (56.69%). However, the government must prioritize addressing the cost of living, job creation, and income generation (70.84%). This reflects the public's urgent need for the government to tackle economic and livelihood challenges. In line with this, respondents emphasized their key message to Prime Minister Paetongtarn as the country's leader: revive the economy, reduce living costs, and ensure widespread income generation (49.14%). Additionally, improving communication clarity and listening to public concerns was highlighted by 44.50% of respondents. While short-term relief measures have generated a certain level of satisfaction, the public expects the government to address structural economic issues, which remain the core problem. At the same time, clear communication and responsiveness to public concerns will play a vital role in rebuilding public confidence.



Over the past three months, the Paetongtarn government has faced a period akin to a probationary phase, grappling with various challenges, including flooding, poverty, and particularly the long-standing economic issues that have significantly impacted people's livelihoods. However, during this time, there has been no clear evidence of tangible solutions to these problems. This aligns with survey results showing that 39.85% of respondents believe the government's overall performance cannot yet be assessed, while 28.14% feel it has fallen short of expectations. The lack of confidence is most evident in the government's economic management, with 54.99% of respondents expressing doubt. The 10,000-baht cash handout remains the only policy seen as delivered thus far.

What the public desires most from this administration is concrete action to address economic challenges, improve livelihoods, and boost incomes. Notably, in the recent three-month performance briefing, the government focused on plans for the upcoming year rather than presenting concrete achievements. The key question remains: Will the next performance update showcase tangible outcomes that resonate with the public and restore confidence? This will be something to closely watch moving forward.



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