

# Summarized Results of the Public Opinion Survey on the "Public's View on Current Cross-Strait Relations"

(July 31~August 2, 2017)

- Over 70% of the public disagree with mainland China's approach of suppressing Taiwan and unilaterally setting political preconditions to cross-Strait exchanges (75.2%) and think that the political united front tactics used by the Mainland authorities against the people of Taiwan in the name of exchanges is not conducive to the development of cross-Strait relations (70.1%).
- Over 60% of the public support the government's position of strengthening laws, regulations, and management measures related to cross-Strait interaction to maintain the order of such contact and safeguard the nation's sovereignty, dignity, rights, and interests (64.1%); think that it is reasonable for the government to penalize retired high-level officials and military officers who illegally participate in political activities in mainland China, with penalties depending on the severity of the offense (65.8%); and find it appropriate to amend the period of restriction on travel to mainland China by retired or discharged political appointees or civil servants who had access to classified information to "a minimum of three years, allowing increases but not reductions" (66%).
- Over 80% of the public support the government's position that maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the joint responsibility of both sides, that the two sides should engage in healthy and normal contact and exchanges (87.8%), and that ongoing contact and exchanges between the people of both sides is conducive to promoting positive cross-strait interaction (84.8%).

## I. Survey Background and Methods

In order to understand the public's views on issues concerning cross-Strait relations, the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) commissioned the Taiwan Real Survey Co. Ltd. to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from July 31 to August 2, 2017. A total of 1,079 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of 2.98% based on a 95% confidence level.

## **II. Major Findings**

### **(1) Views on the government's cross-Strait policy and management of cross-Strait exchanges**

Nearly 40% of the public agree with the statement that "the main cause of imbalance in cross-Strait exchanges over the past year has been mainland China's unilateral reduction of Mainland tourist visits to Taiwan, limitation of Mainland students studying in Taiwan, and delayed implementation and operation of cross-Strait agreements" (39%). Over 70% of the public disagree with mainland China's approach of suppressing Taiwan and unilaterally setting political preconditions to cross-Strait exchanges (75.2%). More than 60% of the public support the government's advocacy of improved laws, regulations, and management measures related to cross-Strait exchanges to maintain the order of such contact and safeguard the nation's sovereignty, dignity, rights, and interests (64.1%).

### **(2) Views on draft amendments to Article 9 of the Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area**

Over 70% of the public believe it is inappropriate for Taiwan's retired high-level officials and military officers to participate in official celebrations or military reviews in mainland China (75.4%). More than 60% of the public approve the government's requirement that, to safeguard national security and dignity, retired high-level officials and military officers obtain consent before participating in political activities in mainland China and, while participating in such activities, not sing the Mainland national anthem or salute the Mainland national flag (61.6%). Similar majorities think that it is reasonable for the government to penalize retired high-level officials and military officers who illegally participate in political activities in mainland China, with penalties ranging from a fine or reduction in monthly pension payments to termination of all monthly pension payments, depending on the severity of the offense (65.8%); and think that it is appropriate for the government to change the period of former regulations restriction on travel to mainland China for three years by retired or discharged political appointees or civil servants who had access to classified information to "a minimum of three years, allowing increases but not reductions" to protect national security (66%).

### **(3) Views on future cross-Strait interaction and exchanges**

70% of the public think that the political united front tactics used by the Mainland authorities against the people of Taiwan in the name of exchanges is not conducive to the development of cross-Strait relations (70.1%). More than 80% of the public support the government's position that maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait is the joint responsibility of both sides, that the two sides should engage

in healthy and normal contact and exchanges (87.8%), and that ongoing contact and exchanges between the people of both sides is conducive to promoting positive interaction between the two sides (84.8%).