

Majority of the Public Support Preliminary Results Acquired through the Government's Handling of the Mainland's M503 and Other Routes' Establishment, Believe the Executive Yuan's Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act Version Beneficial to Improving Congressional Oversight, Openness and Transparency, and Hope for Legislation to be Completed as Soon as Possible

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The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) announced today (March 23, 2015) this year's first routine public opinion survey results on the Mainland's M503 and other air routes' establishment, in which the majority of the people support the government in expressing its solemn position to the Mainland and demanding pragmatic communication from the Mainland (62.7%), as well as accept the preliminary adjustment measures taken by the Mainland (57.4%). The MAC stated that the government, in adherence to the "safety and dignity" principles, has demanded for the Mainland to pragmatically communicate with Taiwan on the issue of establishing the M503 and other routes, has urged the Mainland to face up to the demands of public opinion in Taiwan, and has acquired preliminary results. This shows that rational and pragmatic cross-strait negotiations hold positive significance for Taiwan's national security and flight safety, and also for cross-strait peace and stability.

The MAC stated that, the Mainland's agreement to not fly military jets on the M503 international route and to not operate near the Strait median line at the ROC government's demand has been regarded as conducive to peace in the Taiwan Strait by 45.2% of the surveyed; whereby 60.2% of the surveyed public believe the government's ongoing communication and coordination with the Mainland on M503 route flight safety and future establishment of a cross-strait flight control mechanism to be conducive to safeguarding regional air security. The MAC pointed out that the

establishment of the M503 route as an international civil aviation route not to be used by military jets changes past practice since 1999 of Mainland military jets operating west of the Strait median line, and sets major significance for civil aviation and air defense security. The two sides will continue to coordinate on flight control mechanism establishment, while at the same time, the Taiwan side will also comprehensively monitor M503 actual flight situation so as to maintain regional air safety.

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The survey also showed that the great majority of the public support pragmatic handling of cross-strait affairs through institutionalized negotiations (79.8%) and institutionalized exchange visits by the heads of cross-strait competent authorities (72.3%). The majority also approve of MAC Minister Hsia to visit the Mainland at an appropriate time this year under the principle of reciprocity (68.1%), as well as the holding of a "Hsia-Zhang Meeting" during the upcoming visit by the Mainland TAO Director Zhang Zhijun (55.3%). The MAC stated that these findings underscore the mainstream public's support for the government's approach of peaceful, rational, and pragmatic communication in handling cross-strait affairs. In the future, the government will continue to steadily promote institutionalized cross-strait developments to lay a more solid foundation for cross-strait peace and stability.

Furthermore, over 70% of the surveyed public expressed support for the Legislative Yuan to complete Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act legislation as soon as possible (76.1%), affirmed the Executive Yuan's Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act version to be beneficial to increasing openness, transparency, and public participation in negotiations (75.2%) and congressional oversight (68.1%), and also recognized that the cross-strait seismological and meteorological collaboration agreements signed and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for reference last year should promptly take effect (73.4%). The MAC stressed that the government will, communicate with and seek consensus among all sectors with a sincere and open

attitude so that legislation of the Supervisory Act may be completed as soon as possible and thus satisfy the people's expectations.

Regarding other long observed cross-strait issues, the survey showed that people in favor of "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense" remained stable and accounted for the great majority of the public (84.7%). As for views on the current pace of cross-strait exchanges, 38.4% of the public believe it to be "just right," followed by the percentages believing the pace to be "too fast" and "too slow" at 30.6% and 19.3%, respectively.

The MAC commissioned the Election Study Center of National Chengchi University to conduct a telephone survey of adults aged 20 and over in Taiwan from March 16 to 19, 2015 . A total of 1,081 valid samples were collected, with a sampling error of plus or minus 2.98% at a 95% level of confidence.