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

(March 16 to 19, 2015)

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- Regarding the Mainland's M503 and other routes' establishment, the majority of the people support the government's pragmatic communication approach (62.7%), conditional acceptance position towards the Mainland's adjustment(56.9%), and acceptance for the specific adjustment results made by the Mainland (57.4%). The majority also feel that the government's ongoing 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. (60.2%).
- The great majority of the public also support cross-strait institutionalized negotiations (79.8%) and institutionalized exchange visits by the heads of cross-strait competent authorities (72.3%). The majority also approves 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%).
- Over 70% (76.1%) of the surveyed public expressed support for the Legislative Yuan to promptly complete the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act legislation; affirmed the Executive Yuan version of the Act to be beneficial to increasing openness, transparency and public participation of negotiations (75.2%) and congressional oversight (68.1%); and also recognized that the cross-strait seismological and meteorological cooperation agreements signed last year and submitted to the Legislative Yuan for reference should promptly take effect (73.4%).
- The great majority of the people (84.7%) still insist on "maintaining the status quo defined in a broader sense," a figure that has remained highly stable. Regarding the pace of cross-strait exchanges, 38.4% of the people the pace is "just right," while the percentages feeling the pace is "too fast" and "too slow" are 30.6% and 19.3%, respectively.

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

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II. Major Findings

(1) Views on the Mainland's announcement of the M503 and other air routes

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%) and accept the the Mainland's decision to move the M503 route westward (and the agreement that planes will yaw west in special circumstances), to not implement the three 'W' air routes at this stage, and to communicate and confirm with Taiwan before future implementation (57.4%). The surveyed also support the government's position in conditionally accepting the Mainland's M503 adjustments to protect national security and flight safety in the Taiwan Strait (56.9%), and believe that the government's continuing exchanges of views with the Mainland on flight safety on the M503 and other routes, as well as communication and coordination with the Mainland in the future establishment of a flight control mechanism between the two sides to be conducive to safeguarding regional air security (60.2%). Furthermore, almost half (45.2%) of the people believe the M503 route to be conducive to peace in the Taiwan Strait as it is an international civil aviation air route upon which Mainland military jets will not fly, nor will the military jets operate eastward of the M503 and near the Strait median line (originally military jets operated near the median line).

(2) Views on institutionalized cross-strait negotiations and official interaction

79.8% of the public support the continued handling of cross-strait exchange issues through institutionalized negotiations; and 72.3% approve institutionalized regular exchange visits between the MAC minister and TAO director to pragmatically handle cross-strait affairs. The vast majority of the public (68.1%) approve of MAC Minister Hsia to visit the Mainland at a suitable time this year under

the principle of reciprocity, as well as the holding of a "Hsia-Zhang Meeting" during the upcoming visit by the Mainland TAO Director Zhang Zhijun (55.3%).

(3) Views on the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act and seismological and meteorological cooperation agreements

76.1% of the surveyed public expressed support for the Legislative Yuan to promptly complete Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act legislation so as to avoid impacts on cross-strait institutionalized negotiations and further harm the people's interests. 75.2% of the people feel the government's communication and consultation with the public during every stage of negotiation helps increase openness, transparency, and public participation. 68.1% of the public believe the executive branch's full communication and consultation with the Legislative Yuan and having respect for Legislative Yuan's review or record procedures once the agreements are signed help improve congressional oversight. 73.4% of the public approve the seismological and meteorological collaboration agreements; and agree that these two cross-strait agreements, closely related to the people's life and do not involve legislative amendments, should promptly take effect to avoid affecting the people's rights and interests.

(4) Views on unification or independence

The overwhelming majority of the public (84.7%) still support maintaining the status quo defined in the broader sense (including "Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later," "Maintaining the status quo and unification later," "Maintaining the status quo and independence later," and "Maintaining the status quo indefinitely"). Of the six possible positions on this issue, "Maintaining the status quo and deciding on independence or unification later" enjoys the highest level of support (34.3%), followed by "Maintaining the status quo indefinitely" (27%).

(5) Views on the pace of cross-strait exchanges

38.4% of the public believe the current pace of cross-strait exchanges to be "just right," while 30.6% believe it to be "too fast," 19.3% "too slow," and 11.8% "don't know / no opinion."

(6) Public perception on Mainland government's attitude toward Taiwan

57.1% of the public perceive the Mainland government's attitude toward the ROC government to be "unfriendly," higher than the percentage (23.8%) perceiving it to be "friendly." As for the Mainland government's attitude toward the ROC people, 35.7% of the public believe their attitude to be "friendly," while 47.3% of the public believe it "unfriendly."

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