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*Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2024*

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## **“Economic Crisis and the Digital Wallet Rollout”**

**Dear Executive Editors/News Editors/News Editor-in-Chief,**

The NIDA Poll, a survey center of the National Institute of Development Administration, conducted a public survey titled **"Economic Crisis and the Digital Wallet Rollout"** from January 22nd to 24th, 2024. The survey involved 1,310 participants aged 18 and over, representing diverse regions, education levels, occupations, and incomes across the nation. The sampling method employed a Multi-Stage Sampling Technique using probabilities from the main sample database ("Master Sample") of the NIDA Poll. Data were gathered through telephone interviews with a 97.0% confidence level.

According to the survey findings, when the informants were asked about their opinion on Thailand's current economic crisis, 63.51% indicated that the crisis required urgent attention, while 20.15% felt that the crisis needed attention but not urgently. Additionally, 10.08% did not consider the crisis a serious concern, 5.65% stated that they did not experience any economic crisis, and 0.61% either did not know, did not respond, or were not interested.

In terms of public experiences with the current economic crisis, the survey revealed that 36.72% expressed a need for urgent government assistance, while 31.91% believed they could handle the economic crisis independently. Moreover, 20.45% indicated a requirement for government assistance, though not urgently, and 10.92% reported they did not encounter any economic crisis.

In relation to public opinion on the distribution of 10,000 Baht through the Digital Wallet, findings indicated that 34.66% believed the policy should be cancelled, while, 33.66% felt the policy should continue as initially planned for this current year. Furthermore, 18.55% expressed support for continuing the policy but with a focus on economically vulnerable groups. 5.88% agreed that the policy should be postponed until 2025, and 4.58% added that the postponement should also prioritize economically vulnerable groups. Finally, 2.67% either did not express an opinion, did not respond to the survey, or were not interested.

Regarding potential emotional reactions if the Prime Minister, Srettha Thavisin, cancels the Digital Wallet policy, findings showed that 68.85% indicated they would not be angry at all, while 12.37% expressed some degree of anger. 9.39% stated they would be very angry, and 8.85% mentioned they would not be very angry. Finally, 0.54% either did not have a clear emotional response, did not answer the survey, or were not interested.

Upon analyzing the general characteristics of the sample, the following observations were made: (i) 8.55% of the participants reside in Bangkok areas. (ii) 18.55% reside in the Central region. (iii) 18.01% reside in the Northern region. (iv) 33.44% reside in the Northeastern region. (v) 13.74% reside in the Southern region. (vi) 7.71% reside in the Eastern region.

In terms of gender distribution, 48.09% of the participants are male, while 51.91% are female.

Regarding age, the participants fell within the following brackets: (i) 12.90% are aged 18-25 years old. (ii) 17.79% are aged 26-35 years old. (iii) 18.93% are aged 36-45 years old. (iv) 26.64% are aged 46-59 years old. (v) 23.74% are aged 60 years old or older.

Regarding religious beliefs, 95.95% of the participants identify themselves as Buddhists, 3.59% identify as Muslims, and 0.46% identify as Christians and others.

In terms of marital status, 36.18% of the participants are single, 61.83% are married, and 1.99% are widows, divorced, and separation.

Regarding educational attainment: (i) 24.50% have completed elementary school or lower. (ii) 36.18% have completed secondary school or equivalent. (iii) 9.31% have completed diploma or equivalent. (iv) 25.73% have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent. (v) 4.28% have attained education postgraduate or equivalent.

The survey also considered participants' professions: (i) 8.47% work as government officials/employees/state enterprise employees. (ii) 17.02% work in the private enterprise employees. (iii) 21.76% are business owners/freelancers. (iv) 11.99% are agriculturists/fisheries. (v) 15.11% are general hires/worker. (vi) 19.85% are husbands/housewives/retired/unemployed. (vii) 5.80% are students/university students.

Lastly, in terms of income distribution: (i) 23.36% do not have any income. (ii) 19.24% not exceeding of 10,000 Baht. (iii) 29.31% have an average monthly income between 10,001 to 20,000 Baht. (iv) 9.39% have an average monthly income between 20,001 and 30,000 Baht. (v) 3.13% have an average monthly income between 30,001 and 40,000 Baht. (vi) 4.43% more than 40,001 or higher. (vii) 11.14% did not specify their income.

### **1. How serious do you think the current economic crisis in Thailand is?**

<b>Public opinion on Thailand's economic crisis</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Facing an economic crisis that demands immediate attention	63.51
Facing an economic crisis that demands attention, but not immediately	20.15
Facing an economic crisis that does not raise any particular concern	10.08
Not facing any economic crisis	5.65
Don't know/ No response/ Not interested	0.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### **2. How much do you feel you are currently affected by the economic crisis?**

<b>Experiences of the public during the economic crisis</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Facing an economic crisis that demands immediate government assistance	36.72
Facing an economic crisis that individuals can handle independently	31.91
Facing an economic crisis that requires government assistance, but no immediately	20.45
Not facing any economic crisis	10.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

3. Considering the information about the 10,000 Baht Digital Wallet Rollout, there is potential for hindering future progress.

What recommendations would you propose for Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin?

Public opinion on the implementation of the 10,000-baht digital wallet rollout	Voting for the Pheu Thai Party since having the right to vote in an election					Percentage
	Have voted for the Pheu Thai Party, including during the general election on May 14, 2023	Have voted for the Pheu Thai Party, but did not partake in the general election on May 14, 2023	Have never voted for the Pheu Thai Party	Have never taken part in any electoral voting process	No response/ Not interested	
- The policy should be cancelled.	23.12	39.43	45.28	20.00	28.56	34.66
- The policy should continue as initially planned for the current year.	45.28	29.71	22.64	30.00	42.86	33.66
- The policy should continue, with a specific focus on economically vulnerable groups.	18.69	16.57	19.81	30.00	14.29	18.55
- The policy should be postponed until 2025.	5.98	6.86	4.72	10.00	14.29	5.88
- The policy should be postponed until 2025, with a specific focus on economically vulnerable groups.	5.39	4.86	3.54	0.00	0.00	4.58
- Don't know/ No response/ Not interested	1.54	2.57	4.01	10.00	0.00	2.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

4. If the government, led by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, decides to revoke the 10,000 Baht Digital Wallet Rollout, how dissatisfied would you be with the government?

Public opinion on the potential decision by the Prime Minister to terminate the 10,000-baht digital wallet rollout	Voting for the Pheu Thai Party since having the right to vote in an election					Percentage
	Have voted for the Pheu Thai Party, including during the general election on May 14, 2023	Have voted for the Pheu Thai Party, but did not partake in the general election on May 14, 2023	Have never voted for the Pheu Thai Party	Have never taken part in any electoral voting process	No response/ Not interested	
Not angry at all	64.93	63.43	78.07	70.00	71.42	68.85
Quite angry	14.45	16.00	7.08	0.00	14.29	12.37
Very angry	11.95	9.43	6.13	20.00	0.00	9.39
Not very angry	8.48	10.28	8.01	10.00	14.29	8.85
Don't know/ No response/ Not interested	0.19	0.86	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## General characteristics of the sample

**Table 1 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by regions.**

Regions	Frequency	Percentage
Bangkok areas	112	8.55
Central region	243	18.55
Northern region	236	18.01
Northeastern region	438	33.44
Southern region	180	13.74
Eastern region	101	7.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 2 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by gender.**

Genders	Frequency	Percentage
Male	630	48.09
Female	680	51.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 3 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by ages.**

Ages	Frequency	Percentage
18-25 years old	169	12.90
26-35 years old	233	17.79
36-45 years old	248	18.93
46-59 years old	349	26.64
60 years old or older	311	23.74
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 4 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by religions.**

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Buddhists	1,257	95.95
Muslims	47	3.59
Christians and others	6	0.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 5 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by marriage status.**

Marriage Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	474	36.18
Married	810	61.83
Widows, divorced, and separation	26	1.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**General characteristics of the sample (Continued)**

**Table 6 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by education level.**

<b>Education Levels</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Elementary school or lower	321	24.50
Secondary school or equivalent	474	36.18
Diploma or equivalent	122	9.31
Bachelor's degree or equivalent	337	25.73
Postgraduate or equivalent	56	4.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 7 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by main occupations.**

<b>Main Occupations</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Government officials/employees/ state enterprise employees	111	8.47
Private enterprise employees	223	17.02
Business owners/freelancers	285	21.76
Agriculturists/fisheries	157	11.99
General hires/worker	198	15.11
Husbands/housewives/retired/unemployed	260	19.85
Students/university students	76	5.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table 8 illustrates numbers and percentages of survey respondents categorized by monthly income.**

<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do not have any income	306	23.36
Not exceeding of 10,000	252	19.24
10,001 – 20,000	384	29.31
20,001 – 30,000	123	9.39
30,001 – 40,000	41	3.13
More than 40,001 or higher	58	4.43
Not specified	146	11.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100.00</b>