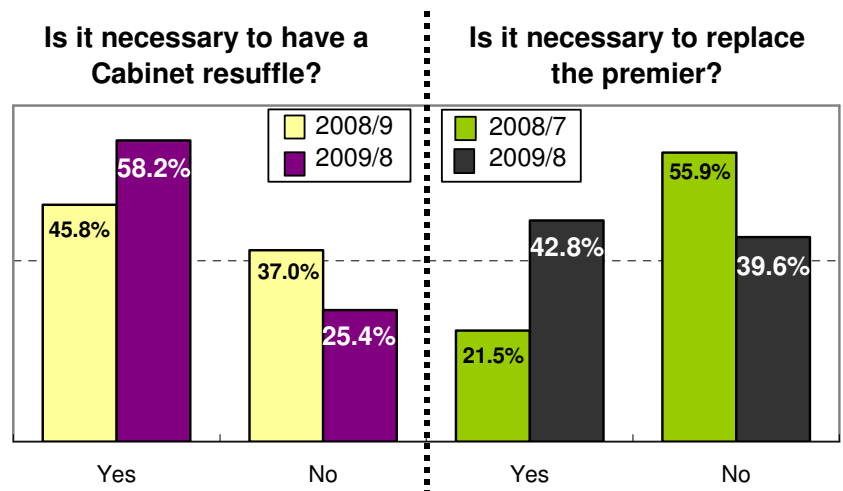


## Public opinions on President Ma Ying-jeou's and his Cabinet's abilities to deal with disasters following Typhoon Morakot's lash at Taiwan

A. 78.2 percent of Taiwanese say the Ma administration has failed to handle the typhoon disaster well. 58.2 percent say a Cabinet reshuffle is necessary, while 42.8 percent say the incumbent premier should be replaced.

Typhoon Morakot has caused serious damage to Taiwan. This GVSRC survey shows 25.2 percent of Taiwanese say either their families, friends or themselves have lost lives or suffered property damage, with over 40 percent of Taiwanese in the south saying so. It can be seen that the storm has a major impact on Taiwanese society. 78.2 percent say the Ma administration has failed to handle the typhoon disaster well this time, while only 11.5 percent say the government has successfully contained the damage. This shows most Taiwanese think that the government has not fulfilled its duty in protecting the mass public.

Following the serious damage caused by the typhoon and flash flooding, 58.2 percent say a Cabinet reshuffle is necessary, while 25.4 percent say it is unnecessary. Even 52.3 percent of pan-blue supporters say a Cabinet reshuffle is necessary. Compared to the survey from last September, this survey sees a 12.4 percentage-point rise in the number of people who consider a Cabinet reshuffle is necessary.



On whether Premier Liu Chao-shiuan should step down, 42.8 percent of Taiwanese think the premier should be replaced following the serious damage caused by the storm, while 39.6 percent say it is not necessary. This shows Taiwanese are highly divided on the issue. Among pan-blue supporters, 34.6 percent say the premier should be replaced, while 57.6 percent say it is not necessary. Compared with the survey from last July, this survey sees the number of people who consider it necessary to replace the premier double, a surge of 21.3 percentage points. This shows Taiwanese are unsatisfied with Premier Liu Chao-shiuan's performance over the past year.

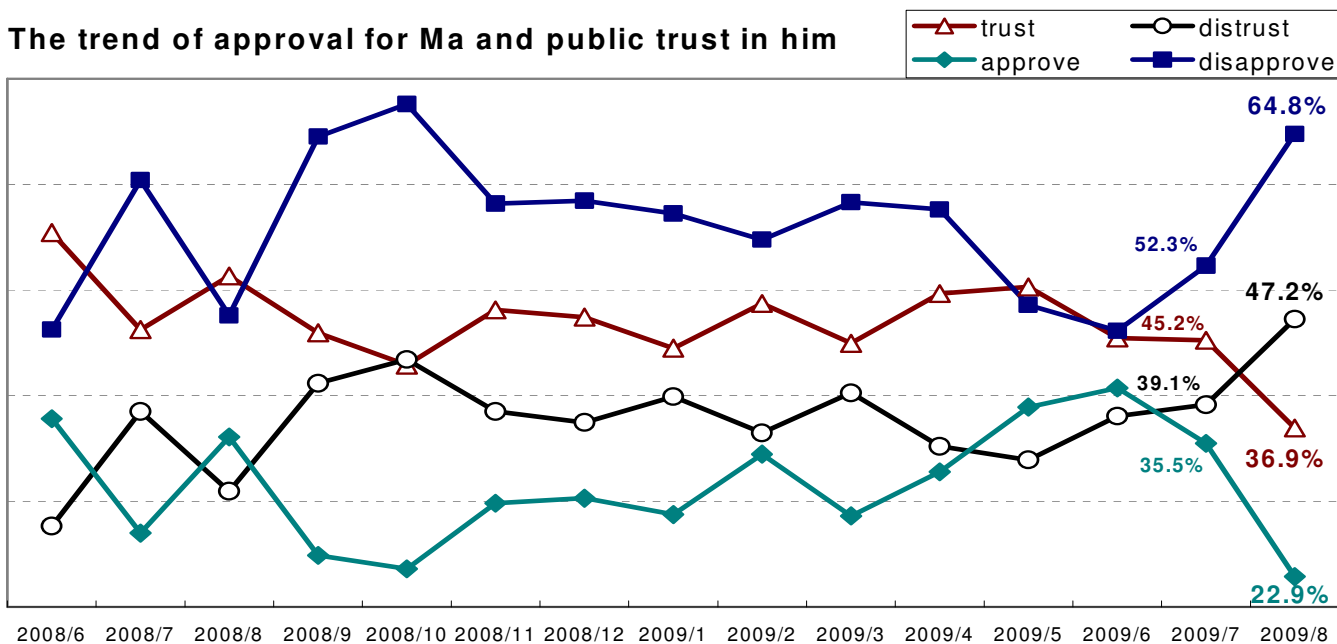
Taiwanese now are even more eager to see senior officials step down to take responsibilities for the typhoon disaster following widespread unhappiness with government officials' attitudes, inefficient relief efforts and performance of handling the catastrophe caused by the storm and flash flooding.

B. President Ma Ying-jeou's approval rating this month: His approval rating is 22.9 percent and disapproval rating is 64.8 percent. 36.9 percent say they trust Ma, while 47.2 percent say they don't.

This GVSRC survey shows Ma's approval rating is 22.9 percent this month, and his disapproval rating 64.8 percent. Among pan-blue supporters, his disapproval rating stands at 49.4 percent, also higher than the approval rating of 43.7 percent. Compared with the survey from last month, Ma's approval rating plunge by 12.6 percentage points, and his disapproval rating surge by 12.5 percentage points. Ma's approval rating has hit a record low since he took office 15 months ago.

At the same time, 36.9 percent of Taiwanese say they trust Ma, while 47.2 percent say they don't. The level of public trust in Ma hits a record low while the level of public distrust in Ma hits a record high this month since Ma took office last May. This is also the first time the level of public distrust in Ma becomes higher than the level of public trust in him since he entered politics. When we compare the level of public trust in him to that of 44.6 percent from last March (58.45 percent of all votes won by Ma multiplying by the 76.33 percent voter turnout), it can be seen that Ma has lost the trust of 1.33 million people who voted for him last year. Ma won the presidential election last March, winning most votes a Taiwanese presidential candidate ever did, and his KMT also won the control of the legislature earlier that year. However, public opinions on Ma has changed drastically even before half way through his first term. This is something Ma should reflect on.

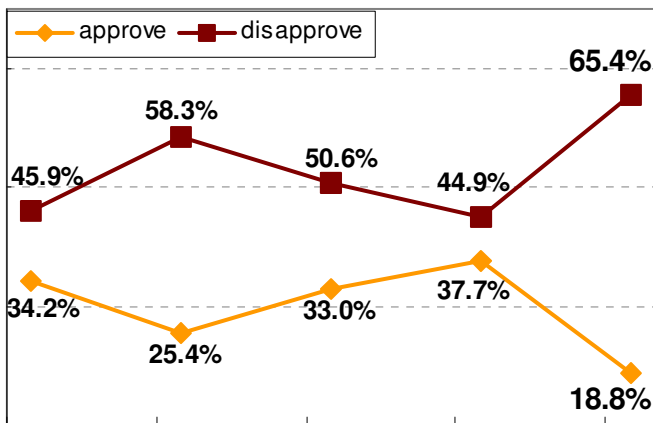
The trend of approval for Ma and public trust in him



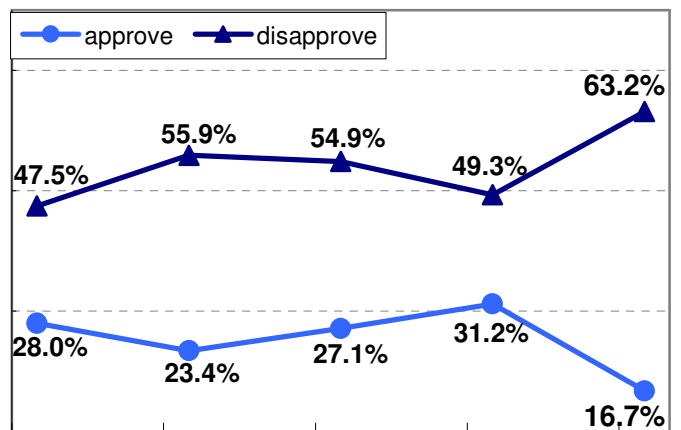
C. Premier Liu Chao-shiuan's approval rating is 18.8 percent and his disapproval rating is 65.4 percent. The Cabinet's ministers' approval rating is 63.2 and their disapproval rating is 16.7 percent.

GVSRC surveys Taiwanese on the premier's and Cabinet ministers' approval ratings once every quarter. In this survey, the premier's approval rating is 18.8 percent, and disapproval rating is 65.4 percent. Compared to the survey from last quarter, this survey sees the premier's approval rating fall by 18.9 percentage points, and disapproval rating increase by 20.5 percentage points. At the same time, Cabinet ministers' approval rating is 16.7 percent, and disapproval rating is 63.2 percent. Compared to the survey from last quarter, the ministers' approval rating fall by 14.5 percentage points, and disapproval rating rise by 13.9 percentage points. In general, the premier's and Cabinet ministers' approval ratings all hit a record low this month since they took office last year, while their disapproval ratings all hit a record high following public unsatisfied with their response to the typhoon disaster.

**Premier Liu Chao-shiuan's approval rating**



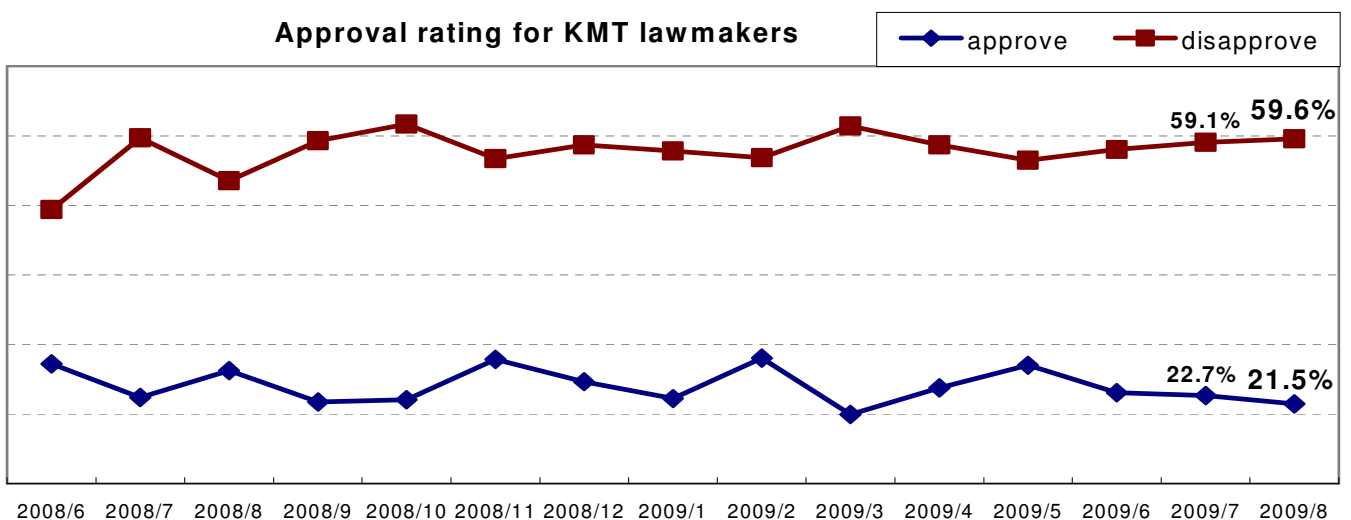
**The Cabinet ministers' approval rating**



D. KMT lawmakers' approval rating is 21.5 percent and disapproval rating is 59.6 percent.

The ruling KMT controls more than 70 percent of all legislative seats and shares an absolute majority in the legislature. Although right now the legislature is in recess, this GVSRC survey shows that 59.6 percent of Taiwanese are not satisfied with KMT lawmakers' overall performance, still much higher than the 21.5 percent who are satisfied. Compared to the survey from last month, this survey sees the KMT lawmakers' approval rating fall by 1.2 percentage point, and disapproval rating rise by 0.5 percentage point. The changes are within the margin of error.

**Approval rating for KMT lawmakers**



E. The administration needs to improve on its crisis management and response to disasters, and Taiwanese consider it to be as important as improvement in the government's ability to boost domestic economy.

This surveys shows the top priorities Taiwanese think the Ma administration should improve on most urgently: 89.5 percent say it's the government's ability of responding and managing crisis efficiently, 88.4 percent say the ability of boosting domestic economy, 83.5 percent say the government should effectively communicate policies to the public, 77.1 percent say the government should implement tighter control on oil, electricity and essential goods prices, 77.0 percent say the government should crack down on corruption more, 73.7 percent say the government's ability to expand Taiwan's diplomatic and international space, and 58.6 percent say the government should improve on its dealings of cross-strait affairs. In other words, these are the capabilities Taiwanese expect new Cabinet officials to have after the upcoming Cabinet reshuffle takes place.

Compared to the survey from last August, conducted 100 days after Ma's inauguration, this survey sees Taiwanese put less emphasis on the President Ma and his administration's ability to handle cross-strait affairs and fighting corruption. Further, as the government was slow and inefficient in its response to the typhoon disaster, there is

an increase of 7.4 percentage points in the number of Taiwanese who think the government should first improve on its crisis management and response to disasters compared to the survey from last August. This has become the most important issue for Taiwanese, and people rate it as important and urgent as the government's ability to boost domestic economy.

There is also an increase in the percentage of people who think the government should better communicate its policies to the public. This is because while the government keeps emphasizing the importance of signing the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement with China, it has not explained the pact in details. Main opposition Democratic Progressive Party's strong objection to the agreement has also brought Taiwanese to question the necessity of the pact.

This survey was conducted by GVSRC from 6.20 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. on August 16-18, 2009. It was conducted with random-digit-dial sampling and computer-assisted telephone interviewing methods. 1012 Taiwanese people who are 20 or older completed the interview. One can say with 95% confidence that the theoretical margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3.1\%$ . Gender, living areas, ages, educational level and other features of the interviewees have undergone weighting procedure and test of the sample's representativeness in the survey results.

