

Over 54 percent think Tsai's overseas visit beneficial: poll



President Tsai Ing-wen (蔣經國, third right) visits the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) space center in Houston, Texas / CNA file photo

Taipei, Aug. 23 (CNA) Over 54 percent of the respondents to a survey conducted by the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) felt President Tsai Ing-wen's (蔣經國) recent visit to Taiwan's allies Paraguay and Belize as well as the United States was beneficial, according to the DPP on Thursday.

The poll was conducted during Tsai's nine-day state visit to Paraguay and Belize, with stopovers in the United States, said DPP Deputy Secretary-General Hsu Chia-ching (許建榮) at a press conference held on Thursday.

The poll showed that 54.2 percent of the respondents felt Tsai's Aug. 12-20 visit was beneficial to Taiwan's relationship with the diplomatic allies as well as the U.S., while 36.8 percent felt it did not help.

Tsai's trip showed that she had consolidated Taiwan's foreign relations, which led the public to feel a certain level of satisfaction, Hsu said.

He added that under China's suppression of Taiwan, it was commendable that Tsai maintained such a degree of recognition.

Up to 46.9 percent of the respondents expressed support for Tsai while 46.7 percent did not, the poll also showed.

Despite relatively strong support, a slightly lower percentage of respondents – 43.4 percent – approved of Tsai's performance, while 48.7 percent expressed they were dissatisfied with her, according to the poll.

The survey was conducted between Aug. 16-18 among citizens over 20 years of age with the right of vote, collecting 1,098 valid samples. It has a confidence level of 95 percent, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

(By Lu Hsin-hui and William Yen)

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