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Latest Press Release

Popular Views on **PPP-PML(N) Alliance**

Survey Dates: *March 9-10, 2008*

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H-45, St. 52, F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel (+92-51) 2825745; Fax: (+92-51) 2827417
Email: isb@gallup.com.pk; **Web:** www.gallup.com.pk

88 % favor PPP-PML(N) Alliance: Gallup Pakistan Survey

Islamabad – According to a survey carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistan People's Party enjoys high level of public opinion support for its policy of allying with its historic competitor the PML(N) led by Nawaz Sharif. In comparison the support to ally with PML(Q), the party enjoying favor with General Pervez Musharraf in the last tenure is rather low. Eighty Eight percent (88%) of the respondents in this nation-wide public opinion poll favored a PPP-PML(N) alliance in the newly elected National Assembly as opposed to only 18% who favored a PPP-PML(Q) alliance.

The survey was carried out among a nationally representative sample of men and women in the rural and urban areas of all four provinces in Pakistan, comprising a cross-section of all age, income and socio-economic groups. The sample size was 1416 and the fieldwork was carried out during March 9-10, 2008. The survey was conducted face to face and the error margin for a survey of this kind is approximately 3-5 % at 95% confidence level

The survey findings seem to confirm the general perception on the issue among political analysts. However, it reveals some interesting dimensions of the emerging popular opinion, as views go beyond the commonly understood political loyalties. There is near unanimity among the PPP and PML(N) voters on the desirability of the PPP-PML(N) alliance: 94% among PPP voters and 98% among PML(N) voters. However an unexpected number of 74% of PML(Q) voters and 95% of MMA voters also favour this alliance. The support for the alliance is low but not insignificant among the voters of MQM: 27% of them support the PPP-PML(N) alliance while 72% are opposed.

There is a remarkably high support for national reconciliation in the country with the possible exception of conflicting views between PPP and MQM voters. Both are unwilling to give much space to the other. MQM continues to maintain high levels of support for Pervez Musharraf who enjoys little favour with PPP voters. By the same count 82% of PPP voters are opposed to forming an alliance in the Assemblies with MQM, even though 87% of MQM voters express keenness for it. This remains a rather thorny political problem for the province of Sindh where MQM dominates the urban segment of the Assembly and PPP dominates the rural segment, and the two might need to work together in the Sindh Assembly.