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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

**VIEWS ON REFRENDUM AND ELECTORAL
PARTICIPATION OF BENAZIR AND NAWAZ
SHARIF IN 2002 ELECTIONS**

Results released on: APRIL 20, 2002



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VIEWS ON REFRENDUM AND ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION OF BENAZIR AND NAWAZ SHARIF IN 2002 ELECTIONS

- APRIL 20, 2002

According to a nation wide poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan earlier this week, views are divided on the referendum. But a majority of 58% support while 42% oppose it. The survey was carried out in all the four provinces of the country. Among those who favour the referendum an overwhelming majority of 90% supports Musharraf's continuation for five years. Similarly among those who oppose the referendum the vast majority of 92% are against Musharraf's continuation as President. There are nevertheless reservations about fairness in the conduct of referendum: 51% said they did not believe the referendum would be held fairly whereas 45% said it would be fair, 4% did not give any opinion.

The Gallup poll also sought public opinion on the decision of President Musharraf to disallow former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto to participate in the forthcoming elections. Approximately 55% of those sampled in this poll favoured Nawaz Sharif's exclusion and the remaining opposed it. In the case of Benazir Bhutto views were almost equally split, 50% each way, between those who supported her exclusion and others who opposed it

As for Musharraf's rallies, the respondents were asked: *"Is President Musharraf doing the right thing or the wrong thing by holding the rallies?"* Forty-one percent (41%) said he was doing the right thing, 31% said he was wrong in holding the rallies, 28% did not give a view.

The Gallup nation wide survey asked its respondents about the performance of President Musharraf since coming to power compared to other recent political governments. Thirty eight percent (38%) said his performance was better than theirs, 21% thought it was worse while 41% said it was no different from previous governments. The respondents were also asked to describe the most liked and the most disliked aspects of Musharraf's tenure in government. The list of most liked aspects included: Accountability of corruption (9%), Economic progress (7%), Prevention of war with India (6%) and Check on terrorism (5%). Others gave miscellaneous answers while 25% said Musharraf had no achievements to his credit. The disliked aspects of this tenure included the following: Succumbing to American pressure (13%), Inflation (9%), Restrictions on religious parties (7%) and objectionable policies towards Afghanistan (4%). Twenty percent (20%) did not give any opinion while 24% said they could not find any fault with his policies.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. It was conducted among more than 1250 men and women spread over the rural and urban areas of all the four provinces. The fieldwork was carried out face to face during April 14-15. The error margin would be $\pm 5\%$ at 95% confidence level. The text of this Note can also be seen at Gallup's website. See www.gallup.com.pk