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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

PUBLIC OPINION VIEWS BUDGET AS AWESOME PROSPECT

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H-45, St.52,F-7/4, Islamabad, Pakistan. Tel +92-51-2655630, Fax +92-51-2655632,

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

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PUBLIC OPINION VIEWS BUDGET AS AWESOME PROSPECT

According to a recent Gallup poll, the budget creates an awesome prospect among the average Pakistani. In a national poll held shortly before the budget was announced, 72% of the adult population believed in the grim expectation that the budget would lead to further increase in prices. Only 4% harboured the hope that prices might decline, while 10% believed there would be no change. 14% did not give an opinion. Only one third of the population was able to offer suggestions about specific budgetary measures, such as which items should be taxed to generate revenue, and which taxes should be relaxed to help to low income population. But, among those who answered these questions there was a clear emphasis on providing relief on food and other subsistence items, while using luxury and entertainment items for generating more revenues. While a nationally representative sample is not expected to be knowledgeable on the fiscal implications of their suggestions, their views should nevertheless be indicative of the prevailing preference.

The following responses should be read in that light:

Question: In your view which items should be further taxed in the budget to increase government revenues?

No Opinion	68%
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Percent of respondent among those who gave an opinion

Films/videos etc	17%
Cars	12%
Luxury items and cosmetics	16%
Cigarettes	13%
Industry	8%
Other miscellaneous	36%

Questions: In your view taxes on which items should be withdrawn in the next budget to help in low income population?

No Opinion	61%
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Percent of responses among those who gave an opinion

Food	
(Including wheat, flour, cooking oil, sugar)	51%
Other basic consumption items (clothing etc)	9%
Electricity	4%
Petrol/ Diesel / Kerozine	3%
Tractors, agricultural equipment	4%
Other miscellaneous	29%