

Roberts: IDB-financed survey good news for Christie

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In light of the customary “mid-term blues” among voters, the results of an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-financed survey reported on in National Review yesterday are “very good news” for Prime Minister Perry Christie and “very bad news” for Opposition Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis, according to Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Chairman Bradley Roberts.

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The results showed that 9.5 percent of those surveyed viewed Christie’s job performance as “very good” and 37.4 percent as “good”.

The results show that 9.6 percent viewed Christie’s job performance as “very bad”.

Another 11.3 percent viewed it as “bad”.

32.2 percent said Christie’s job performance was neither good nor bad, but “fair”.

National Review also revealed that more than 45 percent of the Bahamians surveyed said they would vote for a candidate or party different from the current administration if an election were held this week.

Another 24.5 percent said they would not vote at all.

And 27.2 percent said they would vote for an incumbent candidate or party.

Roberts said in a statement yesterday, “Christie is either performing good [or] very good in leading this country.

“This is a fair and balanced assessment of the prime minister’s performance after 29 months on the job, and any student of politics would tell you that by any objective international measure, this is good news.

“United States President Barack Obama has a job approval rating of 47 percent, which is reported as good in the American press.”

Roberts accused Minnis of reading “the proverbial tea leaves from daily radio talk shows and salacious newspaper headlines in gauging the country’s political barometer”.

“I guess that is why he keeps challenging Mr. Christie to call a general election now, but he should be very careful what he asks for,” the chairman added.

He claimed that, based on the survey results, Christie’s approval rating is catapulted to 79.1 percent, when the results for “good”, “very good” and “fair” are combined.

Vote

Roberts also responded to the results that showed 45 percent of respondents said they would vote for a candidate or party different from the current administration.

Another 24.5 percent said they would not vote at all.

And 27.2 percent said they would vote for an incumbent candidate or party.

The results also reveal that 75.2 percent of respondents voted in the last general election; 24.8 percent did not.

Asked who they voted for in the 2012 general election, 57.3 percent said the PLP; 32.2 percent said the Free National Movement (FNM) and 9.7 percent said the DNA.

Roberts said, “The PLP’s government was at its most popular in 1968, but could only muster 60 percent of the popular vote.

“That meant that 40 percent of the electorate voted against the PLP, but notwithstanding that, history is very clear and definitive on how many seats the PLP won in 1968 and in subsequent general elections.”

Roberts claimed the “constant negative messaging from the usual suspects” is not having the kind of negative impact that these purveyors of gloom and doom had hoped for.

“Bahamians on balance were able to see through much of the blatant bias, unjustifiable criticisms and political spin and appreciate the poor state of national affairs inherited by Mr. Christie and the tough, difficult, sometimes unpopular but necessary decisions the prime minister made over the first 29 months of his administration in the best interest of all Bahamians,” he said.

The survey is a part of the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP).

Each year, it publishes dozens of high quality academic studies and policy-relevant papers.

The Bahamas survey was carried out between June 17 and October 7, 2014.

The country was part of the AmericasBarometer survey for the first time in 2014.

According to the technical information that accompanies the results, the 2014 survey was conducted by Vanderbilt University with field work being carried out by Public Domain, a local market research and public opinion firm.

The project used a national probability sample design of voting-age adults, with a total of 3,429 people involved in face-to-face interviews.

The sample size is considered more than respectable for The Bahamas’ population size.