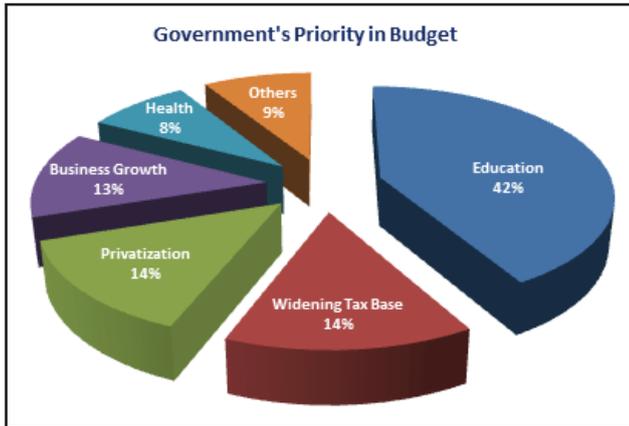


ICMA Pakistan's Budget 2016-17 Expectations Survey

“Education should be the top most priority in the Budget”



Preamble

The Federal Budget 2016-17 is expected to be announced by the Finance Minister by the end of May or early June 2016. Different initiatives have been claimed by the government to benefit the common man and to stimulate the economic growth. The Research and Publications Directorate of ICMA Pakistan has carried out this Budget 2016-17 Expectations Survey to extract general public's views on forthcoming budget and to capture hopes and aspirations of professionals, students, teachers, traders, businessmen, housewives, etc from the forthcoming Federal Budget. The outcomes received from this opinion survey will help the policy makers in drawing inferences to assess the trust level of general public on government's initiatives for the betterment of people and national economy. It also reflects the perception of the people on how they want to see the budget 2016-2017.

The Survey comprised of seven questions that aimed at seeking opinion of respondent on their budget expectations; passing on benefit of oil price decline to people; relief to salaried class, government's spending and expected priority area for government. Let's have a look at some of the important outcomes of this survey.

Survey Results

69.3%

.....expects that budget 2016-17 will be a traditional budget to appease IMF and may be loaded with new taxes for people and businesses

19% respondents, however, expect that this year the government, after achieving some stability and improvement in economic indicators, including tax revenue collections, is in a position to present a people and business-friendly budget.

56.3%

..... do not expect any kind of measures in budget 2016-17 that could bring some relief to the common man

35% respondents have shown optimism that with improved economic conditions, the government would be offering some kind of relief or concession to the common people.

54%

..... believe that government may offer some relief or incentive to the salaried class in the forthcoming budget

34.7% participants of survey, however, indicate that they do not expect any relief from the government for the salaried class, whereas 11.3% said that they cannot predict anything at this stage.

58.2%

..... expect and hope that the government will pass on the benefit of reduced oil prices in international market to the people

34.7% are of the opinion that they do not anticipate any positive measures from the government to give benefit of decline in oil prices in the international market to the common people. Around 7% respondents are silent in this regard.

64.6%

..... anticipate that the budget would have an impact on prices and prices of essential commodities would go up

16.3% respondents do not agree with above observation and say that prices of essential commodities would go down after the announcement of budget. Around 19% are of the view that current prices shall remain unchanged.

74%

..... think that government's spending on non-development expenditure would increase

9.3% have responded that current spending pattern of the government would continue whereas 8.9% believe that spending would rather decrease. 7.7% indicated that to comment on this is quite premature.

74%

..... think that government's spending on non-development expenditure would increase

9.3% have responded that current spending pattern of the government would continue whereas 8.9% believe that spending would rather decrease, as also claimed by the government. 7.7% indicated that they cannot predict now.

The survey participants were specifically asked to mention one top-most priority area which, in their opinion, the government should focus in the forthcoming budget.

41.7%

..... indicated that government should focus on the 'Education Sector' in the coming budget by allocating more funds

14.3% respondents are of the viewpoint that the primary focus of the government in budget should be to expand the tax base that would help increase revenues. 14% say 'privatization' should be the top priority whereas 12.8% think that priority should be given to 'Business Growth'. ■