

Istanbul, 26.03.2014

I herewith present you the KONDA BAROMETER REPORT together with the RESULT REPORT of the field survey we conducted on Saturday and Sunday, March 22nd-23rd.

As you know, KONDA does not send the results of the monthly reports to anyone other than the subscribers and does not confirm or disclaim any related news. As a result of this approach, we felt it necessary to inform the public on the results a few days before the elections and for this aim we conducted a survey that we financed ourselves.

A-Definition of the Survey:

In the survey, face-to-face interviews were carried out with 3,067 individuals in 173 neighborhoods and villages of 33 provinces.¹

In order to determine their voting tendencies, it was requested from the interviewees to answer various questions and mark the party for which they will vote in the ballot sample published within the questionnaire. The reliability of the survey was measured by comparing the data of the latest survey on regard to the society's demographic features and attitudes towards various social events with those obtained via previous surveys.

B- Result of the Survey

The result of the survey the margin of error of which was ± 1.8 is shown in the table below. According to the margin of error, for example the voting rate of the Ak Parti will be within the range of 44.2% to 47.8%. Obviously, the same rates shall be applied to the other parties as well.

The result of the KONDA survey on local elections ²	
Party	March 23
AK Parti	46
CHP	27
MHP	15
BDP	7
Other parties	5
Total	100

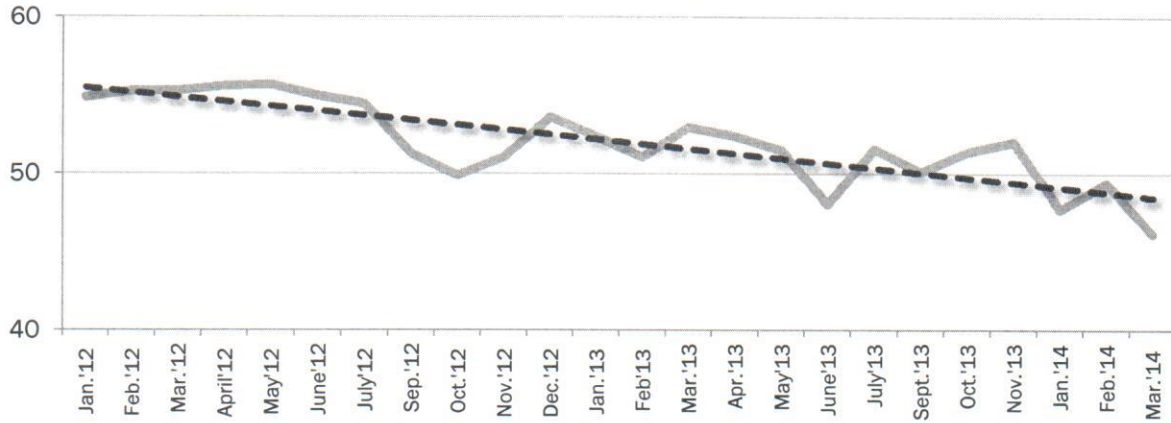
¹ The 33 provinces covered by the sampling are Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Balıkesir, Bartın, Bolu, Bursa, Çanakkale, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Edirne, Elazığ, Erzincan, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Kütahya, Malatya, Mersin, Niğde, Samsun, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, Tokat, Trabzon, Uşak, Van, Zonguldak.

² This result is the weighted average of the percentages for Municipal Council elections in the 30 metropolises and for the General Provincial Council elections in the remaining 51 provinces.

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An evaluation of the results of the 2011 elections as well as the developments that took place in the past 18 months shown in the graph below, together with the table above, leads us to the following assessments on the public's decisions:

The progress and the trendline of the voting rates of the Ak Parti in the past 2 years



C- Assessment by KONDA

Our opinion on the current circumstances as well as the problems likely to be faced in the coming term are as follows:

1. As seen in the graph above, the Ak Parti reached a voting rate of above 54 percent at the beginning of 2012. However after 24 months this rate dropped to 46 percent. Reviewing the past two years, it can be recalled that, due to lack of management, many consequences such as the preparation process of a new constitution, Syria, Gezi Events, the December 17 Operation and the initiative process were suffered. This is the outcome of lack of intra-party democracy and the fact that the party management and the party organization neither monitored nor discussed the problems of the country and the party. Economic problems that started as of past May will effect daily lives as of mid-2014. Reluctance in concluding the work on regulations that have been expected to be made for years prevented our country from being considered a "democratic state of law." The Kurdish problem is strived to be presented as the problem of Kurds only, yet the Kurdish problem is the summary and the source of the problems of Turkey. After the elections, the Ak Parti should start an internal discussion and decide on the establishment of the "New Turkey," defined with the concepts of decentralization, freedom of expression and organization, legal reforms and reforms on the state of law.
2. CHP and MHP are mainly responsible for the current situation due to the fact that they did not give up on old and romantic discourses and failed to establish consistent programs against the Ak Parti's economic and governmental practices after the 2002 elections. The necessity to fill this void which resembles the political instability of 1971-2002 was not taken seriously and moreover, mistakes were made in political strategies and tactics whereby the country spent a decade under the circumstances of lack of political competition leading the way to corruption and deterioration in quality of the government.

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3. The lifestyle polarization manifested itself as seculars vs. religious conservatives and its consequences were experienced in the 1977 elections. Its increase, which was found politically beneficial by the leader of the governmental party, survived until today with a steady increase in severity. The polarization at first was in the axis of seculars vs. conservatives but this distinction transformed into the Ak Parti opposition vs. partisanship after 2011 elections without drawing away from the main axis. As of 2013 until today, all events, be they political or not, have been followed, evaluated, objected to or supported on the basis of this polarization. This polarization that erodes our community has taken captive the majority of the public.
4. The political decision being made today should not be considered as the “approval” or “excusing” of the corruption. It will be observed in the BAROMETER REPORTS of the past three months that 77 percent of the society believe in the allegations of graft asserted in the December 17 events.
Majority of the Ak Parti voters, on the other hand, do not attribute these allegations to the party and believe that the allegations are conspiracy therefore still trust the party whereas a smaller cluster believes the graft claims and excuse them with the rationale that everybody does similar things.
Voters are directed towards such opinions of conspiracy or fabrication due to lack of opposition, as they fear to face the risks of changing sides or polarities that they belong to in politics.
5. Majority of the society are of the opinion that they have always been contempted and excluded by “seculars” or “the Ak Parti opponents.” There is no indication that this discrimination shall end if they leave their current position and take the other side.
The other side also has similar problems. The Ak Parti voters and administrators as well as the leaders of the conservative society should sympathize with the millions of people who are anxious about intervention to their lifestyles.
6. Regardless of the positions and opinions, all those who do not vote for the Ak Parti should strive to get acquainted with the “Ak Parti voters” knowing that they are the majority in this country and acknowledge that no results can be accomplished unless the Ak Parti voters’ needs and demands are understood and the services provided by the Ak Parti are taken into consideration.

The opinion leaders of the society, non-governmental administrators, those who are interested in politics and business managers, shortly everyone involved should re-consider in a calm manner the needs and demands as well as the values and sensitivities of the whole society.

Best regards,


Tarhan Erdem