

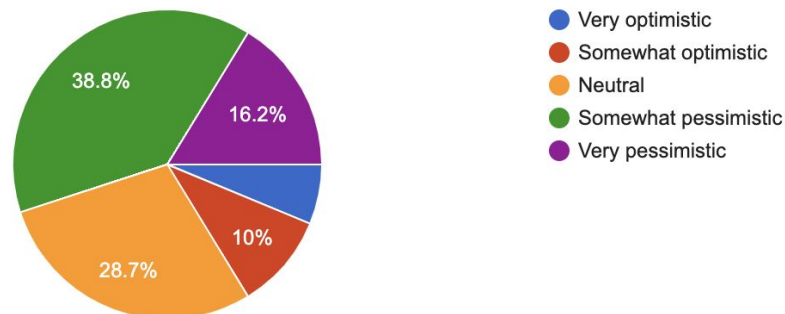
# AMCHAM SNAP POLL - MALAYSIA'S NEW CABINET



Within the first 24 hours of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's announcement of his Cabinet, the **American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM)** ran a snap poll for a quick pulse check of the membership's initial reaction to the selection. 80 responses were recorded and over 60 comments received within a 24-hour timeframe.

While a somber outlook prevailed with 55% of the respondents having a pessimistic reaction to the announced line-up, almost 40% held a positive or neutral view. Distilling the comments there were clearly defined areas that drove the sentiment in this initial poll.

80 responses



The newly formed Cabinet will have to manage these real concerns rooted in the country's economic overall health to establish renewed confidence both locally and from foreign investors.

## **A weakening of democratic processes and stability**

Members expressed concerns about the lack of democratic process in the formation of the new government. With such an unsteady foundation, many feel uncertain about Malaysia's political and economic outlook, questioning the government's staying power particularly when faced with the threat of a possible vote of no confidence when Parliament comes to session.

## **Needs to be focused on critical issues of the day**

With the announcement of Cabinet's composition, the government agenda must now steer away from politics and focus attention back on rebuilding confidence and strengthening the economy, especially in the light of external challenges and world economic uncertainty vis-à-vis COVID-19, the U.S.- China trade war, and plunging oil prices.

## **The lack of diversity, gaps in experience and credibility make for low levels of confidence**

However, members have expressed regret at the lack of diversity both in representation and experience in Cabinet. There is low confidence in the credibility and ability of the appointed Ministers to continue the reforms or initiate substantive policies that Malaysia needs to get its economy back on track.

## **Urgent "call to action" to support the return of confidence**

Regardless, the business community remains hopeful and the government is urged to identify and take actions that will bring back investors' confidence in Malaysia, such as spending on R&D, investing in human resource development, and creating a conducive environment for business.

*To provide further insights, AMCHAM will run the same poll in a couple of weeks after the initial dust has settled.*