

Blair Legacy: 'Even More Distrust In Politics'

11:41am UK, Wednesday February 27, 2008
Joey Jones, Political Correspondent

Labour's Gordon Brown and Tory leader David Cameron face an uphill task to restore public confidence in politicians, according to a panel of voters assembled by Sky News.



Mr. Blair: 'Distrusted'

And it is all down to outgoing Prime Minister Tony Blair, who “has left nothing standing”.

The panel consisted mainly of former Labour voters, some inclined to vote for the Conservatives at the next election.

They were quizzed by US pollster Frank Luntz who is regarded as one of the most innovative analysts of political trends in this country and the US.

He said he had never before encountered such a level of cynicism regarding politics and politicians, and he laid the blame squarely at the door of Tony Blair.

“British politics is the Dresden of political systems,” Mr Luntz said.

“Tony Blair has left nothing standing. And these two candidates, in that wake, are going to have to prove that they are different; that they are genuine; that their policies are realistic.”

He added: “I do not envy them or their political advisors, because everything they say will be distrusted by this electorate, and that’s the legacy of Tony Blair.”

The group was also shown recordings of interviews and speeches by Labour leader Gordon Brown and Mr Cameron.

There was little sign that their view of either was significantly affected by seeing them in action.

But in general Mr Brown’s supporters were less hostile to speeches by Mr Cameron, particularly on the environment.

The panel also identified Mr Cameron, not Mr Brown, as the heir to Tony Blair, based on his style and approach.

They were brought together for Voters’ Verdict, a special programme which goes out on Sky News at 8pm tonight.