



MEDIA RELEASE

(June 22, 2011)

FROM: Prof. Ronald D. Holmes
President
Pulse Asia, Inc.

RE: Pulse Asia's May 2011 Nationwide Survey on Presidential Performance and Trust Ratings and Performance Ratings of the National Administration on Selected Issues

Pulse Asia is pleased to share with you some findings on *Presidential Performance and Trust Ratings and Performance Ratings of the National Administration on Selected Issues* from the May 2011 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey. We request you to assist us in informing the public by disseminating this information.

The survey fieldwork was conducted from **May 21 to June 4, 2011** using face-to-face interviews. The following key developments took place immediately before and during the conduct of the interviews for this survey: (1) the search for a new Ombudsman following the resignation of former Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez on 06 May 2011; (2) the granting of a 22-peso cost of living allowance (COLA) for Metro Manila workers; (3) the loss of lives and damage to infrastructure and agriculture in Central Luzon and Bicol due to typhoon Bebang; (4) the confirmation of several presidential cabinet appointees, the resignation of Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Secretary Jose de Jesus and Bureau of Corrections (BOC) Director Ernesto Diokno, the reported appointment of former Senator Manuel A. Roxas II to the cabinet and the call for the removal of Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Angelito Alvarez due to his agency's alleged failure to curb smuggling in the country; (5) the Department of Justice's (DOJ) investigation into the special treatment extended by prison officials to several high-profile inmates; (6) the Sandiganbayan's decision to approve the

plea bargain agreement between former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Comptroller Ret. Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and government prosecutors and the Aquino administration's move to appeal this decision; (7) the resumption of the Senate inquiry into the alleged corruption in the military following the Sandiganbayan's decision to uphold the said plea bargain agreement; (8) the ongoing debates on proposed legislation regarding reproductive health and divorce; (9) the dispute between the Philippines and China arising from the latter's intrusion into Philippine territory and airspace around the Spratlys; (10) the fishkill in Batangas and Pangasinan resulting in damages amount to P 190 million; and (11) the increase in pump prices, the rollback in LPG prices, the decline in power charges by the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) and the deferment of the LRT/MRT fare hike.

As in our previous surveys, this nationwide survey is based on a sample of 1,200 representative adults 18 years old and above. It has a $\pm 3\%$ error margin at the 95% confidence level. Subnational estimates for each of the geographic areas covered in the survey (i.e., Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) have a $\pm 6\%$ error margin, also at 95% confidence level. Those interested in further technical details concerning the survey's questionnaire and sampling design may request Pulse Asia in writing for fuller details, including copies of the pre-tested questions actually used.

Pulse Asia's pool of academic fellows takes full responsibility for the design and conduct of the survey, as well as for analyses it makes based on the survey data. In keeping with our academic nature, no religious, political, economic, or partisan group influenced any of these processes. Pulse Asia undertakes *Ulat ng Bayan* surveys on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort.

For any clarification or questions, kindly contact Prof. Ronald D. Holmes, Pulse Asia President at 09189335497 or Dr. Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia Chief Research Fellow at 09189436816.

**Pulse Asia's May 2011 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:
Media Release on Presidential Performance and Trust Ratings and Performance
Ratings of the National Administration on Selected Issues
22 June 2011**

President Benigno S. Aquino III continues to register majority approval and trust ratings

About seven in ten Filipinos (71%) express appreciation for and trust in President Aquino. On the other hand, less than one in ten is critical of presidential performance (8%) and distrusts the President (7%). Essentially the same percentages of Filipinos are unable to say if they approve or disapprove of the President's work in the past three months (21%) and are ambivalent as regards his trustworthiness (22%). *(Please refer to Table 1.)*

For the most part, these figures do not vary significantly from the presidential ratings recorded by Pulse Asia in March 2011. However, it may be noted that between October 2010 and May 2011, the President's overall approval rating declines by 8 percentage points while his national trust rating decreases by 9 percentage points. *(Please refer to Tables 2a and 2b.)*

In May 2011, President Aquino enjoys majority approval ratings across geographic areas ranging from 57% in Metro Manila to 79% in Mindanao. Meanwhile, across socio-economic groupings, approval levels vary from 63% in the best-off Class ABC to 77% in the poorest Class E. With respect to disapproval ratings, double-digit figures obtain in Class ABC (14%) and Metro Manila (15%) while single-digit ratings are posted in the other geographic areas (6% to 7%) and socio-economic classes (5% to 8%). Levels of public ambivalence are nearly constant across geographic areas (15% to 28%) and socio-economic groupings (18% to 23%). *(Please refer to Table 1.)*

Between March and May 2011, public approval for presidential performance eases (-15 percentage points) while public indecision becomes more pronounced (+12 percentage points) in the Visayas. These are the only significant changes in presidential performance ratings during this period. *(Please refer to Table 2a.)*

With respect to presidential trust ratings, majority figures are registered in all geographic areas (56% to 76%) and socio-economic classes (63% to 78%). Mindanaoans (76%) and those in Class E (78%) are most inclined to trust President Aquino. In contrast, double-digit distrust ratings are recorded in Class ABC (12%) and Metro Manila (15%) while single-digit figures may be noted in the other geographic areas (6% to 7%) and socio-economic classes (5% to 8%). Practically the same levels of public indecision concerning presidential trustworthiness are posted in the different geographic areas of the country (17% to 29%) and socio-economic groupings (17% to 25%). *(Please refer to Table 1.)*

President Aquino's trust ratings in Metro Manila and the Visayas decline by double-digit margins between March and May 2011 (-13 and -14 percentage points). Additionally, there is a double digit increase in the level of public ambivalence as regards presidential trustworthiness in the Visayas (+11 percentage points). The changes recorded in the other geographic areas and socio-economic classes are marginal at best. (Please refer to Table 2b.)

Table 1
PERFORMANCE AND TRUST RATINGS OF
PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

May 21 - June 4, 2011 / Philippines

(In Percent)

PBSA Performance Ratings	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove
Total Philippines	71	21	8
<u>Location</u>			
NCR	57	28	15
Balance Luzon	73	20	7
Visayas	68	25	7
Mindanao	79	15	6
<u>Socio-economic Class</u>			
Class ABC	63	23	14
TOTAL D	70	22	8
E	77	18	5
PBSA Trust Ratings	Big Trust	Undecided	Small / No trust
Total Philippines	71	22	7
<u>Location</u>			
NCR	56	29	15
Balance Luzon	73	21	6
Visayas	70	24	6
Mindanao	76	17	7
<u>Socio-economic Class</u>			
Class ABC	63	25	12
TOTAL D	69	23	8
E	78	17	5

Notes: (1) % Approve = % Truly Approve plus % Approve; % Disapprove = % Truly Disapprove plus % Disapprove

(2) % Big Trust = % Very Big Trust plus % Big Trust ; % Small Trust = % Small Trust plus Very Small Trust

(3) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off or to Don't Know and Refuse responses.

Table 2A
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF
PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
 October 2010 to May 2011 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

Demographic variables	Approve			Change*	Undecided			Change*	Disapprove			Change*
	Oct 10 (A)	Mar 11 (B)	May 11 (C)	May11 - Mar11 (C - B)	Oct 10 (D)	Mar 11 (E)	May 11 (F)	May11 - Mar11 (F - E)	Oct 10 (G)	Mar 11 (H)	May 11 (I)	May11 - Mar11 (I - H)
Total Philippines	79	74	71	- 3	18	18	21	+ 3	3	7	8	+ 1
NCR	78	66	57	- 9	20	26	28	+ 2	2	9	15	+ 6
Balance Luzon	75	72	73	+ 1	22	20	20	0	3	8	7	- 1
Visayas	86	83	68	- 15	12	13	25	+12	2	4	7	+ 3
Mindanao	79	78	79	+ 1	16	15	15	0	4	7	6	- 1
Class ABC	74	69	63	- 6	21	26	23	- 3	4	5	14	+ 9
TOTAL D	77	72	70	- 2	20	19	22	+ 3	3	8	8	0
E	83	80	77	- 3	15	14	18	+ 4	2	6	5	- 1

Table 2B
COMPARATIVE TRUST RATINGS OF
PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
 October 2010 to May 2011 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

Demographic variables	Trust			Change*	Undecided			Change*	Distrust			Change*
	Oct 10 (A)	Mar 11 (B)	May 11 (C)	May11 - Mar11 (C - B)	Oct 10 (D)	Mar 11 (E)	May 11 (F)	May11 - Mar11 (F - E)	Oct 10 (G)	Mar 11 (H)	May 11 (I)	May11 - Mar11 (I - H)
Total Philippines	80	75	71	- 4	17	20	22	+ 2	2	6	7	+ 1
NCR	75	69	56	- 13	23	24	29	+ 5	2	7	15	+ 8
Balance Luzon	80	71	73	+ 2	18	22	21	- 1	2	6	6	0
Visayas	87	84	70	- 14	12	13	24	+11	1	2	6	+ 4
Mindanao	80	75	76	+ 1	16	18	17	- 1	4	6	7	+ 1
Class ABC	78	71	63	- 8	21	26	25	- 1	1	2	12	+10
TOTAL D	78	73	69	- 4	18	20	23	+ 3	3	7	8	+ 1
E	85	78	78	0	14	18	17	- 1	1	4	5	+ 1

Note: *Change = Figures of May 2011 minus Figures of March 2011.

The Aquino administration obtains majority approval ratings on six out of 11 national issues on which it is performance-rated in May 2011

Most Filipinos think the current administration has done well on six issue areas – fighting criminality (60%), enforcing the law equally on all Filipinos (57%), improving the national peace situation (57%), fighting corruption in government (56%), creating more jobs (53%) and increasing workers’ pay (51%). The last issue is considered an urgent national concern by 54% of Filipinos (i.e., it is an issue that should be acted upon immediately by the Aquino administration). However, the Aquino administration performs relatively poorly on another issue deemed as urgent by 53% of Filipinos – controlling inflation. On this issue, only 39% express approval for the Aquino administration’s performance while 29% disapprove and 32% is ambivalent on the matter. *(Please refer to Table 3.)*

The incumbent administration posts plurality approval ratings on three other issues – protecting the environment (50%), strengthening public trust in the government and its officials (49%) and controlling population growth (48%). On the issue of poverty reduction, practically the same percentages of Filipinos either approve of the administration’s work (40%) or express indecision on the matter (39%). *(Please refer to Table 3.)*

As regards public disapproval for the Aquino administration’s performance, it is most pronounced on the issue of controlling inflation (29%). On the other hand, single-digit disapproval ratings are recorded by the administration on two issues – enforcing the law equally on all citizens (9%) and strengthening public trust in the government and its officials (9%). With respect to public indecision, figures range from 29% on the issue of fighting criminality to 42% on the issue of strengthening public trust in government and its officials. *(Please refer to Table 3.)*

During the period March to May 2011, the only significant change in the administration’s performance ratings occurs on the issue of equal law enforcement with the administration enjoying an improvement in its overall approval rating (+8 percentage points). *(Please refer to Table 4.)*

Table 3
PERCEIVED URGENCY OF SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUES AND
THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION'S PERFORMANCE RATINGS

May 21 - June 4, 2011 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

National issues	% citing as One of Three Most Urgent Issues	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove	NAR*
Fighting criminality	18	60	29	11	+49
Enforcing the law to all, whether influential or ordinary people	18	57	34	9	+48
Increasing peace in the country	17	57	33	10	+47
Fighting graft and corruption in government	40	56	30	14	+42
Creation of more jobs	33	53	34	13	+40
Strengthening the people's trust in the government and its officials	6	49	42	9	+40
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	14	50	36	14	+36
Improving/Increasing the pay of workers	54	51	32	17	+34
Controlling fast population growth	12	48	38	14	+34
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	35	40	39	21	+19
Controlling inflation	53	39	32	29	+10

Q80 - 90. Nais naming malaman ang inyong opinyon tungkol sa pagganap sa tungkulin ng administrasyon ni Presidente Aquino sa pagharap nito sa mga sumusunod na isyung pambansa. Sa bawat isyung mabanggit, sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito (SHOW RATING BOARD), maaari bang pakisabi ninyo kung kayo ay TALAGANG APROBADO, APROBADO, MAAARING APROBADO AT MAAARING HINDI APROBADO, HINDI APROBADO o TALAGANG HINDI APROBADO sa pagganap sa tungkulin ng pambansang administrasyon sa mga isyu na ito?

Notes: (1) % Approve = % Truly Approve plus % Somewhat Approve; % Disapprove = % Somewhat Disapprove plus % Truly Disapprove.

(2) *NAR (Net Approval Rating) = %Approve minus % Disapprove

(3) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off or to Don't Know and Refuse responses.

Table 4
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION ON SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUES

March and May 2011 / Philippines

Selected National Issues	Approval		Change*	Undecided		Change*	Disapproval		Change*
	Mar 11	May 11	May 11 - Mar 11	Mar 11	May 11	May 11 - Mar 11	Mar 11	May 11	May 11 - Mar 11
Fighting criminality	54	60	+ 6	30	29	- 1	17	11	- 6
Increasing peace in the country	53	57	+ 4	31	33	+ 2	16	10	- 6
Enforcing the law to all, whether influential or ordinary people	49	57	+ 8	35	34	- 1	15	9	- 6
Fighting graft and corruption in government	56	56	0	29	30	+ 1	15	14	- 1
Creation of more jobs	48	53	+ 5	33	34	+ 1	19	13	- 6
Improving/Increasing the pay of workers	48	51	+ 3	29	32	+ 3	22	17	- 5
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	48	50	+ 2	36	36	0	16	14	- 2
Strengthening the people's trust in the government and its officials	---	49	---	---	42	---	---	9	---
Controlling fast population growth	42	48	+ 6	37	38	+ 1	20	14	- 6
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	41	40	- 1	33	39	+ 6	26	21	- 5
Controlling inflation	37	39	+ 2	31	32	+ 1	32	29	- 3

*Change = Figures of May 2011 minus Figures of March 2011.