

MEDIA RELEASE

(November 15, 2010)

FROM: Dr. Ana Maria L. Tabunda
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RE: Pulse Asia's October 2010 Nationwide Survey on
Performance Ratings of President Benigno S. Aquino III
and his Administration and Trust Ratings of President Aquino

Pulse Asia is pleased to share with you some findings on *Performance Ratings of President Benigno S. Aquino III and his Administration and Trust Ratings of President Aquino* from the October 2010 *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 **October 20 to 29, 2010** using face-to-face interviews. Among the major developments prior to and during the conduct of the interviews for this survey were: (1) the mixed assessment of the first 100 days in office of President Benigno S. Aquino III; (2) the release of Malacañang's review of the Incident Investigation and Review Committee's (IIRC) report on the August 2010 Luneta hostage-taking incident as well as the mixed reactions that the review drew, including the disappointment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region over the President's decision to spare top officials involved in the incident from criminal prosecution; (3) allegations concerning the involvement in jueteng of some government officials; (4) the clash between the Catholic Church and the President on the issue of reproductive health, as well as between the Supreme Court and the President on the latter's move to rescind all midnight appointments made by his predecessor; (5) the proclamation issued by Pres. Aquino granting amnesty to Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and over 300 other military officers and personnel involved in several mutinies, which requires the concurrence of

both chambers of Congress to take effect; (6) the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections; (7) the approval on second reading of the 2011 national budget by the House of Representatives; (8) the on-going trials on the Maguindanao massacre and the NBN-ZTE deal; (9) the Supreme Court's dismissal of a plagiarism case against one of its associate members and its issuance of a show cause order asking 37 members of the University of The Philippines College of Law faculty to explain why they should not be sanctioned for asking for the resignation of the associate member involved; (10) the typhoon that hit northern Philippines; and (11) the increase in oil prices, reduction in electricity rates and the appreciation of the local currency relative to the US dollar.

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 Dr. Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia Chief Research Fellow at 09189436816.

**Pulse Asia's October 2010 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:
Media Release on the Performance Ratings of
President Benigno S. Aquino III and his Administration and
Trust Ratings of President Aquino
15 November 2010**

PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE AND TRUST RATINGS: President Aquino scores big majority approval and trust ratings in his first three months in office

Despite the August 2010 Luneta hostage-taking incident and other controversies besieging the new administration, President Benigno S. Aquino III appears to enjoy much political and social capital as most Filipinos approve of his performance (79%) and express trust in him (80%). The President registers big majority approval ratings (75% to 86%) and trust ratings (75% to 87%) in all of the country's geographic areas, with those in the Visayas granting him his highest ratings. Across socio-economic groupings, 74% to 83% approve of presidential performance while 78% to 85% trust President Aquino. The highest figures, in this case, are recorded in the poorest Class E. (This is the first time President Aquino is being performance- and trust-rated in Pulse Asia's *Ulat ng Bayan* survey. In July 2010, although the President had already been proclaimed as such, survey respondents were asked to rate his performance during his last three months in the Senate. Rated as a senator, President Aquino scored an overall approval rating of 88% and an overall trust rating of 85%.) (*Please refer to Table 1*)

Almost two in ten Filipinos are unable to say if they approve or disapprove of President Aquino's performance (18%) and if they trust or distrust him (17%). Essentially the same indecision ratings in performance and trust may be noted across geographic areas (12% to 22% and 12% to 23%, respectively) and socio-economic classes (15% to 21% and 14% to 21%, respectively). On the other hand, President Aquino posts single-digit disapproval and distrust ratings at the national level (3% and 2%, respectively) and in the different geographic areas (2% to 4% and 1% to 4%, respectively). (President Aquino registered overall indecision ratings of 10% to 18% and overall disapproval and distrust ratings of 2% when he was last assessed as a senator by respondents to Pulse Asia's July 2010 nationwide survey.) (*Please refer to Tables 2a and 2b*)

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

October 20 - 29, 2010 / Philippines
(In Percent)

PBSA Performance Ratings	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove
Total Philippines	79	18	3
<u>Location</u>			
NCR	78	20	2
Balance Luzon	75	22	3
Visayas	86	12	2
Mindanao	79	16	4
<u>Socio-economic Class</u>			
Class ABC	74	21	4
TOTAL D	77	20	3
E	83	15	2
PBSA Trust Ratings	Big Trust	Undecided	Small / No trust
Total Philippines	80	17	2
<u>Location</u>			
NCR	75	23	2
Balance Luzon	80	18	2
Visayas	87	12	1
Mindanao	80	16	4
<u>Socio-economic Class</u>			
Class ABC	78	21	1
TOTAL D	78	18	3
E	85	14	1

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
 July 2010 and October 2010 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

Demographic variables	Approve		Change*	Undecided		Change*	Disapprove		Change*
	Jul 10 (A)	Oct 10 (B)	Oct10 - Jul10 (B - A)	Jul 10 (C)	Oct 10 (D)	Oct10 - Jul10 (D - C)	Jul 10 (E)	Oct 10 (F)	Oct10 - Jul10 (F - E)
Total Philippines	88	79	- 9	10	18	+ 8	2	3	+ 1
NCR	83	78	- 5	13	20	+ 7	3	2	- 1
Balance Luzon	89	75	- 14	10	22	+12	1	3	+ 2
Visayas	90	86	- 4	8	12	+ 4	2	2	0
Mindanao	89	79	- 10	10	16	+ 6	0	4	+ 4
Class ABC	78	74	- 4	18	21	+ 3	3	4	+ 1
TOTAL D	88	77	- 11	10	20	+10	1	3	+ 2
E	92	83	- 9	7	15	+ 8	1	2	+ 1

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

Demographic variables	Trust		Change*	Undecided		Change*	Distrust		Change*
	Jul 10 (A)	Oct 10 (B)	Oct10 - Jul10 (B - A)	Jul 10 (C)	Oct 10 (D)	Oct10 - Jul10 (D - C)	Jul 10 (E)	Oct 10 (F)	Oct10 - Jul10 (F - E)
Total Philippines	85	80	- 5	13	17	+ 4	2	2	0
NCR	83	75	- 8	14	23	+ 9	3	2	- 1
Balance Luzon	84	80	- 4	14	18	+ 4	2	2	0
Visayas	89	87	- 2	9	12	+ 3	1	1	0
Mindanao	84	80	- 4	15	16	+ 1	1	4	+ 3
Class ABC	86	78	- 8	11	21	+10	3	1	- 2
TOTAL D	84	78	- 6	15	18	+ 3	1	3	+ 2
E	88	85	- 3	10	14	+ 4	2	1	- 1

Notes (1) * Change = Figures of October 2010 minus Figures of July 2010.

(2) President Benigno S. Aquino III was rated a Senator in July 2010 and as President in October 2010.

PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION: Most Filipinos express appreciation for the work done by the Aquino administration on eight (out of 11) national issues

Approval for the Aquino administration's efforts to address key national issues is expressed by small majorities of Filipinos – criminality (62%), job creation (59%), law enforcement (58%), corruption (57%), peace (56%), workers' pay (56%), population control (53%), and environmental degradation (51%). In contrast, plurality approval ratings are scored by the national administration on three national issues – expanding the sources of government funds (48%), poverty reduction (47%) and inflation (45%). The latter is considered as an urgent national concern (i.e., an issue requiring the immediate attention of the government) by about one in ten Filipinos (49%).

Meanwhile, it is on the issues of inflation and poverty reduction that the Aquino administration scores its highest disapproval ratings (21% and 18%, respectively). Given the survey's error margins, nearly the same disapproval ratings (9% to 14%) are registered by the current dispensation on the other national issues probed in this survey. Indecision levels, on the other hand, range from 28% on criminality to 42% on the expansion of sources of government funds. (*Please refer to Table 3*)

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

October 20 - 29, 2010 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

National issues	% citing as One of Three Most Urgent Issues	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove	NAR*
Fighting criminality	17	62	28	10	+52
Enforcing the law to all, whether influential or ordinary people	20	58	33	9	+49
Creation of more jobs	40	59	30	11	+48
Fighting graft and corruption in government	41	57	30	13	+44
Increasing peace in the country	24	56	32	12	+44
Improving/Increasing the pay of workers	43	56	31	14	+42
Controlling rapid population growth	12	53	34	13	+40
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	13	51	37	13	+38
Expanding the source of funds – whether they be taxes or debts -- to run government and its various programs and projects	8	48	42	10	+38
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	33	47	35	18	+29
Controlling inflation	49	45	34	21	+24

Q75 - 85. 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.