

## MEDIA RELEASE

(October 2, 2014)

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

**RE: Pulse Asia Research's September 2014 Nationwide Survey on Charter Change**

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Pulse Asia Research, Inc. is pleased to share with you some findings on *Charter Change* from the September 2014 *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 **September 8 - 15, 2014** using face-to-face interviews. In the first half of September 2014, the news headlines were dominated by the following key developments:

- (1) the ongoing Senate investigation into the reported overpriced Makati City Hall Building II, with witnesses claiming, among other things, that the bidding for the said project was rigged to favor Hillmarc's Construction Corporation and that Vice-President Jejomar C. Binay received kickbacks from various Makati City projects while serving as its local chief executive;
- (2) a suggestion made by Albay Governor Joey Salceda to impeach Vice-President Binay due to the charges of corruption raised against him in connection with the construction of the allegedly overpriced building in Makati City which began under his watch as Makati City mayor - a proposal rejected by politicians allied with and critical of the current national administration;

- (3) the junking of three impeachment complaints against President Benigno S. Aquino III which were found to be insufficient in substance by members of the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives;
- (4) the suspension for 90 days of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile emanating from the Sandiganbayan's suspension order issued on 24 July 2014 so as to prevent him from influencing the investigation into his alleged involvement into the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam;
- (5) the arrest of the suspects in a foiled "bombing attempt" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on 01 September 2014 which is reportedly related to the desire of a group called the USA Freedom Fighters of the East (USAFFE) to retake the Spratly Islands from China;
- (6) the confirmation of the appointment of General Gregorio Pio Catapang as chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), with Senator Antonio Trillanes IV and Cagayan de Oro Representative Rufus Rodriguez praising him for the escape of Filipino peacekeepers stationed in Golan Heights on 31 August 2014 who were under siege from Syrian rebels;
- (7) President Aquino's request addressed to Congress for emergency powers to enable him to address the impending energy crisis next year;
- (8) the transmittal of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to Congress and President Aquino's call for the lawmakers to prioritize and fast-track the bill; and
- (9) calls for the resignation of Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Alan Purisima amidst the increasing number of crimes involving policemen and President Aquino's expression of trust in the beleaguered police official.

Other news items at this time include the statement made by Vice-President Binay as regards his preference for Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Company Chairperson Manuel V. Pangilinan as his running mate in May 2016; talks of a second term for President Aquino; the preparations being done by the leaders of the Catholic Church for the January 2015 visit to the Philippines of Pope Francis; public uproar against the construction of a condominium tower in Manila City which ruins the vista of the Rizal Monument; the oath-taking of Associate Justice Francis Jardeleza as the newest member of the Supreme Court following his 19 August 2014 appointment by President Aquino; the latter's visit to Europe and the United States where he will be discussing matters related to the West Philippine Sea dispute with China, trade and investment, and the plight of

overseas Filipino workers (OFWs); and the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila, the port congestion in Manila City, and the continuing woes experienced by passengers of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 due to technical problems which hamper the MRT's operations.

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 Research in writing for fuller details, including copies of the pre-tested questions actually used.

Pulse Asia Research'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 Research 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, Research Director of Pulse Asia Research at 09189436816 or Prof. Ronald D. Holmes, Pulse Asia Research President at 09189335497 or via email (ronald.holmes@gmail.com).

Pulse Asia Research's September 2014 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:  
Media Release on Charter Change  
02 October 2014

**Most Filipinos (61%) report awareness of proposals to amend the 1987 Philippine Constitution while nearly half of Filipinos (46%) admit to knowing little about the 1987 Constitution itself**

A small majority of Filipinos (61%) have heard, read or watched something about the proposals to amend the 1987 Constitution. Majority awareness levels are recorded in almost all geographic areas and socio-economic classes (55% to 70% and 63% to 77%, respectively), with the exceptions being Mindanao (49%) and Class E (48%). Higher awareness figures may be noted in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon than in the Visayas (67% to 70% versus 55%) as well as in Class ABC than in Class D (77% versus 63%). On the other hand, 39% of Filipinos learned about the suggested proposals to the 1987 Constitution only during the survey interviews. (Please refer to Table 1.)

**Table 1**  
**AWARENESS OF PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION**  
September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

<i>Base: Total Interviews, 100%</i>								
Over the past few weeks, there have been renewed proposals to change the Constitution. One proposal is to lift the single term limit on the President. If this proposed amendment is passed, the incumbent president can run for re-election in the 2016 elections. Prior to these proposals, leaders in Congress have proposed earlier amendments to provisions that limit foreign ownership of corporations and properties in the Philippines.								
<i>Have you heard, read or watched anything about the proposals to change the Constitution before this or only now?</i>	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
	Yes, before this	61	70	67	55	49	77	63
None, only now	39	30	33	45	51	23	37	52

*NITONG MGA NAKARAANG LINGGO, MAYROON MULING PANUKALA NA AMYENDAHAN O BAGUHIN ANG KONSTITUSYON. ISA SA MGA PANUKALANG ITO AY ANG PAGTANGGAL NG LIMITASYON SA ISANG TERMINO LAMANG PARA SA PRESIDENTE. KUNG MAIPASA ANG PANUKALANG PAGBABAGO SA KONSTITUSYON NA ITO, MAAARING TUMAKBO MULI ANG KASALUKUYANG PRESIDENTE PARA SA IKALAWANG TERMINO SA DARATING NA ELEKSYON NG 2016. BAGO ANG PANUKALANG ITO, ANG MGA LIDER NG KONGRESO AY UNA NANG ISINUSULONG NA AMYENDAHAN ANG MGA PROBISYON UKOL SA PAGLILIMITA SA MGA DAYUHAN NA MAG-MAY-ARING KORPORASYON AT IBA PANG ARI-ARIAN SA PILIPINAS.*

*Q. May narinig, nabasa o napanood na ba kayo tungkol sa mga panukalang baguhin ang Konstitusyon bago nito o ngayon lang?*

In terms of amount of knowledge of the 1987 Constitution, around five in 10 Filipinos (46%) admit to knowing little about it. Big pluralities to near majorities in nearly every geographic area and all socio-economic classes (46% to 49% and 44% to 49%, respectively) have little knowledge about the 1987 Constitution. Meanwhile, practically the same percentages either have a sufficient amount of knowledge (26%) or almost none/no knowledge at all about the 1987 Constitution (24%). Only 4% of Filipinos say they know a great deal about it. In contrast, most of those aware of charter change proposals (55%) report having little knowledge about the 1987 Constitution, 35% know enough, and essentially the same percentages either have a great deal of knowledge (7%) or no knowledge at all about it (3%). (Please refer to Table 2.)

**Table 2**  
**KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSTITUTION**  
September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

<i>How would you describe the amount of knowledge you have regarding the Constitution of the Philippines?</i>	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
		<i>(Base: Total Interviews, 100%)</i>						
<b>GREAT DEAL - SUFFICIENT</b>	30	33	28	37	25	39	32	20
A great deal of knowledge	4	4	3	7	5	6	5	2
Not a great deal, but a sufficient amount	26	28	25	30	21	32	27	18
<b>LITTLE - NO KNOWLEDGE</b>	70	67	72	63	75	61	68	80
A little knowledge	46	46	49	34	49	46	44	49
Almost none or no knowledge at all	24	21	23	30	25	16	24	30
<i>(Base: Aware of proposals to change the Constitution, 61%)</i>								
<b>GREAT DEAL - SUFFICIENT</b>	42	42	37	60	37	44	44	30
A great deal of knowledge	7	6	4	11	8	8	7	3
Not a great deal, but a sufficient amount	35	36	33	49	29	36	37	27
<b>LITTLE - NO KNOWLEDGE</b>	58	58	63	40	63	56	56	70
A little knowledge	55	55	58	38	62	50	53	68
Almost none or no knowledge at all	3	4	4	1	1	6	3	1

Q. Paano ninyo ilalarawan ang inyong kaalaman tungkol sa Konstitusyon ng Pilipinas?

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

**Opposition to charter change now is expressed by a sizeable majority of Filipinos (62%); levels of support for charter change now and indecision on the matter are essentially the same (20% versus 18%); there are significant changes in public opinion on charter change between October 2010 and September 2014**

For 62% of Filipinos, there is no need to amend the 1987 Constitution at the present time - with 32% opposed to charter change at any other time and 30% being open to charter change at some future time. Opposition to charter change now is the majority sentiment in each geographic area and socio-economic grouping (61% to 68% and 56% to 65%, respectively). On the other hand, 20% of Filipinos say the 1987 Constitution should be amended now while 18% are unable to say whether or not charter change should be done now. (Please refer to Table 3.)

**Table 3**  
**WHETHER OR NOT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO AMEND THE**  
**PRESENT PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AT THIS TIME**

September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
In your opinion, should the Constitution be amended or not <i>at this time</i> ?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<b>YES, the Constitution SHOULD BE amended now</b>	20	21	17	25	19	23	19	20
<b>NO, SHOULD NOT BE AMENDED NOW</b>	62	61	61	61	68	65	64	56
NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now, but it may be amended sometime in the future	30	35	25	24	43	29	30	30
NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now nor any other time	32	26	36	37	25	36	34	26
Don't Know/Can't say	18	17	23	14	13	13	17	24

Q. Sa inyong palagay, dapat ba o hindi dapat baguhin ang Konstitusyon sa ngayon?

Among Filipinos aware of proposals to amend the 1987 Constitution, a higher level of opposition to charter change at the present time is posted (70%) - with 34% saying it may be amended in the future and 36% expressing complete opposition to such proposals regardless of timing. Also, there is less indecision on the matter among those aware of charter change proposals (8%). Among those with a great deal/sufficient amount of knowledge of the 1987 Constitution, it may be noted that there is a higher level of support for charter change now (28%) as well as a higher level of support for amending it at some future time (37%). Indecision on the matter of charter change is less pronounced in this sub-grouping compared to Filipinos in general (4% versus 18%). (Please refer to Table 4.)

**Table 4**  
**WHETHER OR NOT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO AMEND THE**  
**PRESENT PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AT THIS TIME**

September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines

(In Percent)

<i>In your opinion, should the Constitution be amended or not <u>at this time</u> ?</i>	BASE		
	Total Interviews (100%)	Aware of Proposals (61%)	Great deal/ Sufficient knowledge (30%)
<b>YES, the Constitution SHOULD BE amended now</b>	20	22	28
<b>NO, SHOULD NOT BE AMENDED NOW</b>	62	70	68
NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now, but it may be amended sometime in the future	30	34	37
NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now nor any other time	32	36	31
<b>Don't Know/Can't say</b>	18	8	4

Q. Sa inyong palagay, dapat ba o hindi dapat baguhin ang Konstitusyon sa ngayon?

At the national level, support for charter change at the present time eases between October 2010 and September 2014 (-20 percentage points). Similarly, levels of support decline in all geographic areas (-16 to -23 percentage points) as well as in Classes D and E (-20 to -21 percentage points). On the other hand, there is an increase in the overall level of opposition to charter change now or at any other time (+14 percentage points). Complete opposition to charter change (i.e., now and in the future) becomes more notable in the rest of Luzon and the Visayas (+19 to +22 percentage points) and in Classes ABC and D (+14 to +18 percentage points). (Please refer to Table 5.)

**Table 5**  
**WHETHER OR NOT IT IS APPROPRIATE TO AMEND THE**  
**PRESENT PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION AT THIS TIME**  
October 2010 and September 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%									
In your opinion, should the Constitution be amended or not <i>at this time</i> ?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS			
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E	
<b>YES, the Constitution SHOULD BE amended now</b>	Sep '14	20	21	17	25	19	23	19	20
	Oct '10	40	40	39	41	42	36	40	40
	Change*	-20	-19	-22	-16	-23	-13	-21	-20
<b>NO, SHOULD NOT BE AMENDED NOW</b>	Sep '14	62	61	61	61	68	65	64	56
	Oct '10	56	57	58	49	56	59	56	54
	Change*	+ 6	+ 4	+ 3	+12	+12	+ 6	+ 8	+ 2
<b>NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now, but it may be amended sometime in the future</b>	Sep '14	30	35	25	24	43	29	30	30
	Oct '10	38	34	44	31	35	41	36	40
	Change*	- 8	+ 1	-19	- 7	+ 8	-12	- 6	-10
<b>NO, the Constitution SHOULD NOT BE amended now nor any other time</b>	Sep '14	32	26	36	37	25	36	34	26
	Oct '10	18	23	14	18	21	18	20	14
	Change*	+14	+ 3	+22	+19	+ 4	+18	+14	+12
<b>Don't Know/Can't say</b>	Sep '14	18	17	23	14	13	13	17	24
	Oct '10	4	3	3	10	2	4	3	6
	Change*	+14	+14	+20	+ 4	+11	+ 9	+14	+18

Note: \*Change = Figures of September 2014 minus Figures of October 2010.

Q. Sa inyong palagay, dapat ba o hindi dapat baguhin ang Konstitusyon sa ngayon?

A decline in the overall level of opposition to charter change now but openness to it in the future occurs during the period October 2010 to September 2014 (-8 percentage points). A similar pattern may be noted in the rest of Luzon (-19 percentage points). With regard to indecision concerning charter change now, it becomes more marked not only at the national level (+14 percentage points) but also in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon (+14 to +20 percentage points) and in Classes D and E (+14 to +18 percentage points).

**The majority sentiment among Filipinos is one of opposition to proposals for President Benigno S. Aquino III to run again for the presidency (62%)**

Around six in 10 Filipinos (62%) are not in favor of President Benigno S. Aquino III running again for the presidency after his term ends in 2016, that is, should the 1987 Constitution be amended to allow for the re-election of an incumbent chief executive. This is the majority sentiment across socio-economic classes (61% to 65%) and geographic areas (52% to 71%), with the Visayas being the exception (50% favor versus 50% not in favor). Opposition to the proposal is more manifest in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon than in the Visayas and Mindanao (67% to 71% versus 50% to 52%). On the other hand, 38% of Filipinos are supportive of proposals for President Aquino to seek the presidency again at the end of his current term. (Please refer to Table 6.)

**Table 6**  
**WHETHER OR NOT IN FAVOR OF**  
**PRESIDENT AQUINO RUNNING AGAIN FOR THE PRESIDENCY**  
September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

<i>Base: Total Interviews, 100%</i>								
<i>If the Constitution will be amended and the president will be allowed to run again, are you IN FAVOR or NOT IN FAVOR of President Aquino running again for the presidency?</i>	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
In favor	38	33	29	50	48	37	39	35
Not in favor	62	67	71	50	52	63	61	65

*Q. Kung babaguhin ang Konstitusyon at papayagan muling tumakbo ang presidente, kayo ba ay pabor o hindi pabor na tumakbo muli si Presidente Aquino sa pagka-presidente?*

**Most Filipinos reject proposals to limit the powers of the Supreme Court to review decisions of the executive branch of government (70%) and to allow foreign individuals and companies to own residential and industrial lands in the country (85%)**

Big majorities express opposition to two specific proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution and these are to: (1) limit the powers of the Supreme Court to exercise its power of judicial review in relation to decisions made by the executive branch (70%) and (2) allow foreign ownership of residential and industrial lands in the Philippines (85%). In relation to the first proposal, majority levels of opposition are recorded across geographic areas and socio-economic groupings (62% to 79% and 63% to 72%, respectively). As for the second proposed amendment, higher levels of opposition are registered ranging from 83% to 89% in the different geographic areas and from 81% to 86% across socio-economic classes. In contrast, 30% of Filipinos are in favor of limiting the Supreme Court's power of judicial review vis-a-vis the executive branch while 15% support foreign ownership of residential and industrial lands in the country. (Please refer to Table 7.)

**Table 7**  
**WHETHER OR NOT IN FAVOR OF**  
**SELECTED PROPOSED CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**  
September 8 - 15, 2014 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
Some of the proposed changes or amendments to the Constitution that have been discussed in the past few weeks are the following. Are you IN FAVOR OR NOT IN FAVOR of each one of them?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<b>Limit the powers of the Supreme Court with regard to reviewing Executive decisions</b>								
In favor	30	38	21	37	37	28	32	
Not in favor	70	62	79	63	63	72	68	
<b>Allowing foreign individuals and companies to own residential and industrial lands</b>								
In favor	15	11	14	16	19	14	14	
Not in favor	85	89	86	84	81	86	86	

Ilan sa mga panukalang pagbabago o amendments sa Konstitusyon na pinag-usapan nitong mga nakaraang linggo ay ang mga sumusunod.

Kayo po ba ay pabor o hindi pabor sa bawat isa sa kanila?

Q. PAGLIMITA SA KAPANGYARIHAN NG KORTE SUPREMA KAUGNAY NG PAGREPASO SA MGA DESISYON NG EHEKUTIBO

Q. PAGPAPAHINTULOT SA MGA DAYUHANG INDIBIDWAL AT KUMpanyA NA MAG-MAY-ARI NG LUPANG RESIDENSYAL AT INDUSTRIYAL