

Our March 2024 *Ulat ng Bayan* survey included several probes to elicit the public's opinion on Charter change. In an earlier publicized report, we noted that a significant majority (72%) of the public were aware of proposals to change the 1987 Constitution. The same survey revealed that around three out of four Filipinos (74%) do not favor changing the 1987 Constitution now nor at any other time. This is the highest level of opposition to Charter change registered in our surveys dating back to August 2003.<sup>1</sup>

The March 2024 *Ulat ng Bayan* survey also revealed equally substantive opposition to proposals to allow foreign individuals or corporations to control firms/institutions in economic and social sectors. Around 4 out of 5 (81%) Filipinos do not favor allowing foreign individuals or corporations to own residential and industrial lands. With respect to allowing foreign individuals and companies to exploit our natural resources, 86% of Filipinos are not in favor of this proposal. Additional findings from the survey on the lifting of restrictions to foreign involvement in other economic and social sectors can be accessed at <https://pulseasia.ph/updates/march-2024-nationwide-survey-on-charter-change/?portfolioCats=249>.

In addition to Pulse Asia Research Inc.'s questions, Stratbase-Albert del Rosario Institute (Stratbase-ADRI) included rider questions on current proposals for changing the Constitution. We offer a brief description of the results of these rider questions since they have been publicized or were partially cited in a commentary by a Stratbase-ADR official. The results of the Stratbase-ADRI rider questions clearly indicate that the public has a much more nuanced view of issues relating to the lifting of the restrictive provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

One probe elicited from Filipinos what they thought were the most significant factors that hinder foreign investments in the Philippines. A majority of Filipinos identified *complicated rules and regulations* (56%) and *restrictive rules on foreign ownership* (55%). A sizeable plurality also cited corruption in the public sector (46%); inadequate transport infrastructure (40%) and the high cost of electricity (37%). (See Table 1)

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<sup>1</sup>From August 2003, we have elicited the public's position on changing the Constitution in 19 surveys. The question has always been "In your opinion, should the 1987 Constitution be amended or not amended at this time?" Respondents are asked to select from the following responses: Yes, the Constitution should be amended now; No, the Constitution should not be amended now, but it may be amended sometime in the future; and, No, the Constitution should not be amended now nor any other time.

Table 1

**MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR THAT HINDERS FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

March 6 - 10, 2024 / Philippines  
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
Which of the following do you think is the most significant factor that hinders foreign investment in the Philippines? You may choose up to three.	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
		Complicated rules and regulations like red tape, changes in government policies and regulations	56	58	55	61	50	66
Restrictive rules on foreign ownership	55	51	55	65	48	57	54	56
Corruption in the public sector	46	50	51	42	38	45	46	49
Inadequate transportation infrastructure	40	37	41	45	38	36	42	36
High cost of electricity	37	43	39	39	26	27	38	40
Inadequate telecommunications infrastructure	32	32	34	27	34	27	34	27
The incentive for investors is not enough	21	16	17	18	33	17	21	22
<b>UNAIDED</b>								
Refused	2	2	2	0	4	6	2	1

Q74. Alin po sa mga sumusunod ang sa tingin ninyo ang pinakamahalagang dahilan na humahadlang sa pamumuhunan ng dayuhan sa Pilipinas? Maaari po kayong magbanggit ng hanggang tatlo.

When asked regarding the possible outcomes of removing restrictions on foreign investor involvement in the economy, a sizeable plurality to a majority of Filipinos identified both positive and negative outcomes as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

**POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN INVESTORS OR BUSINESSES IN OUR CONSTITUTION**

March 6 - 10, 2024 / Philippines  
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
Which of the following may occur or result from the removal of restrictions against foreign investors or businesses in our Constitution? You may choose up to three and mention others not included in this list.	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
		An increase in high quality jobs with high salaries and better benefits	64	64	61	80	59	62
Services to stakeholders/customers will be better	56	51	57	67	47	64	54	58
Foreign capital will dominate local investors and businesses	55	53	57	54	54	54	56	52
The price of goods and services will decrease	54	55	52	61	52	42	54	63
National security will be at risk	43	38	51	32	37	46	43	37
<b>UNAIDED</b>								
Cannot say	5	8	6	0	7	8	5	2

Q75. Alin sa mga sumusunod ang maaaring mangyari o maging resulta ng pagtanggali sa mga restriksyon laban sa mga dayuhang namumuhunan o negosyo sa ating Konstitusyon? Maaaring pumili ng hanggang tatlo at magsabi ng wala sa listahan.

The above results indicate that the public is keenly aware of the factors that deter the entry of foreign capital, including those that have nothing to do with the lifting of the restrictive provisions in the Constitution. Further, it should also be noted that the public does see both negative and positive outcomes of removing the restrictions against foreign investors in our Constitution. Together, these results explain the unfavorable position of a significant majority of Filipinos to the moves to remove the provisions in the 1987 Constitution that limit foreign involvement in specific economic and social sectors.