

MEDIA RELEASE

(July 24, 2026)

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

RE: Pulse Asia Research's July 2026 Nationwide Survey
on the State of the Nation Address (SONA)

Pulse Asia Research, Inc. is pleased to share selected findings from the July 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey on the *State of the Nation Address (SONA)*. We would appreciate your assistance in helping inform the public by disseminating this information.

The survey fieldwork was conducted from **June 28 to July 3, 6, 2026** using face-to-face interviews. This nationwide survey is based on a sample of 2,400 representative adults 18 years old and above. It has a $\pm 2\%$ error margin at the 95% confidence level. Subnational estimates for the geographic areas covered in the survey have the following error margins at 95% confidence level: $\pm 4\%$ for Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Those interested in further technical details may refer to our website (www.pulseasia.ph)

The following are some of the critical developments that took place in the weeks leading up to and during the conduct of the interviews for the July 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* survey:

1. The preparations for the Vice-President's impeachment trial, with the Senate approving the amended rules on impeachment on 03 June 2026 and paving the way for Senator Francis Escudero to serve as the presiding officer of the Senate convened as an impeachment court; the impeachment trial began on 06 July 2026, with the Vice-President being absent from the initial hearing and the issue regarding opening her tax records still unresolved;

2. The election of Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President on 17 June 2026, ending the leadership struggle within the legislative chamber between the camp of Senator Gatchalian and that of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano;
3. The arrest of Senator Rodante Marcoleta on 06 July 2026 in connection with plunder charges against him involving P75 million in undisclosed campaign donations during the May 2025 elections; the three-day rally by the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) in Manila and Quezon City held from 30 June to 02 July 2026 to show support for the lawmaker after the Office of the Ombudsman decided to file charges against him and three (3) other individuals; one of the lawmaker's co-accused, former AnaKalusugan Party-List Representative Michael Defensor, is also facing qualified human trafficking charges in connection with his ownership of properties that are reportedly being used for illegal activities;
4. The House of Representatives' final approval, on 03 June 2026, of House Bill (HB) No. 8389 that seeks to prohibit relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from running for or holding elective posts at the same time and in the same jurisdiction; a counterpart measure in the Senate, which is still on second reading, proposes stricter limits as it favors banning relatives from simultaneously running for or holding public office in different jurisdictions and across levels of government;
5. The arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada on 01 June 2026 following the Sandiganbayan's issuance of an arrest warrant for plunder due to his alleged involvement in the flood control scandal; the Sandiganbayan also issued a 90-day preventive suspension order against the lawmaker and it took effect on 25 June 2026; the move of the Office of the Ombudsman to drop charges against former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan so he can serve as a state witness in the cases related to the flood control scandal; the Department of Justice (DOJ) has approved the filing of 44 criminal tax cases (i.e., stemming from reported tax liabilities amounting to more than P1.68 billion) against three (3) former DPWH Engineers involved in anomalous flood control projects in Bulacan; protest actions were again held in Makati City and Quezon City on 28 June 2026 to urge the government to hold accountable corrupt government officials, particularly those involved in the scandal;
6. The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on 04 June 2026, presided over by then Senate President Cayetano, during which 18 former military officers testified that as "bagmen" of former Ako Bicol Party-List Representative Elizaldy Co, they were ordered to deliver suitcases and packages full of cash to various government officials among which are the President, former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, and some former and incumbent lawmakers; those accused denied

these allegations, with a few of them even filing libel and cyber libel complaints against these ex-military officers;

7. The President's trip to Russia from 17 to 18 June 2026 to co-chair the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-Russia Commemorative Summit and to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss multilateral partnerships in trade, food and energy security, and anti-terrorism, among others; from 01 to 04 July 2026, the President went to Canada on a state visit during which the Philippines and Canada elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership particularly in the areas of defense and economy; the Philippines hosted German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier during his state visit from 15 to 17 June 2026 and where issues such as maritime and defense security, trade and investments, climate change, labor and migration, and peace were discussed;
8. The World Bank's (WB) reclassification of the Philippines from a lower-middle-income economy to an upper-middle-income economy, a category that includes economies with a gross national income (GNI) per capita ranging from US\$4,636 to US\$14,375; the GNI per capita of the Philippines in 2025 was recorded at US\$4,850; meanwhile, the WB approved a \$1-billion loan and a \$20-million grant that would be used to help expand and improve Filipinos' access to electricity and water;
9. The increase in minimum wage in Metro Manila announced by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on 30 June 2026; the P85 wage hike, which is set to benefit about 1.1 million daily wage earners in the region, will be given out in two (2) tranches, with the first one (P60) to be implemented beginning 25 July 2026 while the second one will be in January 2027;
10. The decision of the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) to lower the Philippine economic growth target for the current year from 5%-6% to 3.5%-4.5% due to the Middle East war, rise in oil prices, and decline in government spending; for 2027 the incumbent administration is proposing a budget amounting to around P7.2 trillion, 6% more than the national budget for the current year, and that will restore allocations for local flood control projects;
11. The country's failure to secure a non-permanent seat in the United Nations (UN) Security Council for the period 2027-2028, losing to Kyrgyzstan through a vote of 142-49 during the fourth round of voting;
12. The decision of China to disallow Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and his immediate family members from entering mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macao, as well as to conduct any business with Chinese organizations and individuals; the DND Secretary said the sanctions,

called by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) as an "unfriendly act", came as a result of his strong criticism of China's aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea (WPS);

13. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake on 08 June 2026 with an offshore epicenter west of Sarangani that resulted in the loss of at least 92 lives, the displacement of some 391,000 families across Mindanao, and damage to infrastructure estimated at more than P1.47 billion;
14. Incidents of school violence in Tacloban City where three (3) students were killed, in Zamboanga City with two (2) students being stabbed, and another stabbing of a student in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental; there were also various reports of online threats against schools and students in different parts of the country, which led the Department of Education (DepEd) to order schools to enforce stricter security measures in their campuses; there have been calls to ban violent online games and other apps that may be desensitizing minors to violence while a Senate investigation into these incidents has uncovered a link between a US-based Nihilistic Violent Extremist (NVE) network and the Tacloban City school shooting incident; and
15. The memorandum of agreement signed by the United States (US) and Iran on 17 June 2026 that deals with, among others, the immediate reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the easing of some financial sanctions imposed on Iran, and the future of Iran's nuclear program; however, airstrikes have since resumed in the area, with both sides accusing the other of violating provisions of the agreement.

Pulse Asia Research's pool of academic fellows takes full responsibility for the design and conduct of the survey and 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 independently without any party singularly commissioning the research effort.

For any clarification or questions, kindly contact Ana Maria Tabunda, Research Director of Pulse Asia Research at 09189436816 or Ronald D. Holmes, Pulse Asia Research President via Telegram or WhatsApp at +639189335497 or at ronald.holmes@gmail.com (via email).

Pulse Asia Research's July 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:
Media Release on the State of the Nation Address (SONA)
24 July 2026

Most Filipino adults (81%) are aware of any of the previous State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs) of the President; awareness levels are essentially constant between June 2025 and July 2026

Awareness of past State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs) delivered by the President before Congress is reported by 81% of the adult population. Majority levels of awareness are recorded in each geographic and socioeconomic subgrouping (70% to 90% and 71% to 89%, respectively). These figures do not differ significantly from those recorded in the June 2025 *Ulat ng Bayan* survey. (Please refer to Tables 1 to 2.)

Table 1
AWARENESS OF THE PAST STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESSES (SONAs)
OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
June 28 - July 3, 6, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
Every year, the President delivers a State of the Nation Address or SONA that presents the overall situation of the country, the condition of our economy, politics, and other social concerns. In this report, the President also informs the public about the achievements of his administration in the past 12 months and what it will do in the coming 12 months.								
Have you heard, read, or watched anything about any of the past State of the Nation Addresses or SONAs of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. or none?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
	YES / AWARE	81	90	83	70	79	89	80
NO / NOT AWARE	19	10	17	30	21	11	20	29

Taun-taon, ang Presidente ay nagbibigay ng Ulat sa Bayan o ang tinatawag na State of the Nation Address o SONA tungkol sa pangkalahatang kalagayan ng ating bansa, ang kondisyon ng ating ekonomiya, pulitika, at iba pang mga isyung panlipunan. Dito sa ulat na ito ay ipinaalam din ng Presidente ang mga naisagawa ng kanyang administrasyon sa nagdaang 12 buwan at ang isasagawa pa nito sa darating na 12 buwan.

PR1&2, Q13. Kayo ba ay may narinig, nabasa, o napanood na kahit ano tungkol sa anumang nakaraang Ulat sa Bayan o SONA ni Presidente Marcos Jr. o wala?

Table 2
AWARENESS OF THE PAST STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESSES (SONAs)
OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
June 2025 and July 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews								
Have you heard, read, or watched anything about any of the past State of the Nation Addresses or SONAs of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. or none?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
% AWARE								
July 2026	81	90	83	70	79	89	80	71
June 2025	78	85	83	70	73	90	76	74
Change*	+ 3	+ 5	0	0	+ 6	- 1	+ 4	- 3

Note: *Change = Figures of UB July 2026 minus Figures of UB June 2025.

Q. Kayo ba ay may narinig, nabasa, o napanood na kahit ano tungkol sa anumang nakaraang Ulat sa Bayan o SONA ni Presidente Marcos Jr. o wala?

The fight against corruption (29.8%) leads the list of issues Filipino adults would like the President to discuss during his upcoming SONA

For the President's 27 July 2026 SONA, the top issue the public would like to hear him discuss or mention is his administration's fight against corruption (29.8%), particularly efforts to investigate and hold accountable those involved in the flood control projects scandal (18.9%). This is followed closely by the issue of affordable basic goods (18.7%). The other issues mentioned at by at least 1% of Filipino adults are anti-corruption initiatives in general (10.9%), jobs and livelihood opportunities (6.6%), poverty (6.2%), illegal drugs (5.5%), low wages (5.1%), high fuel prices (4.9%), agricultural issues (4.0%), criminality (2.8%), state of education (2.0%), fulfilling presidential promises (1.6%), the impeachment of the Vice-President (1.2%), juvenile justice (1.0%), Senate leadership issue (1.0%), and the welfare of senior citizens (1.0%). (Please refer to Table 3.)

The fight against corruption is the top response not only in the country as a whole but also in Metro Manila (35.0%), the rest of Luzon (32.7%), Mindanao (29.7%), Class ABC (42.1%), and Class D (29.6%). In the Visayas, the most often cited issues are affordable prices of basic commodities (22.7%) and corruption (19.3%) while among those in Class E, the leading issues are affordable goods (23.8%), poverty (15.9%), and corruption (13.8%).

Table 3
MOST LIKED ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IN HIS COMING SONA
June 28 - July 3, 6, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent / OPEN-ENDED / VERBATIM)

page 1 of 2

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
What would you most like President Marcos Jr. to discuss or mention in his coming State of the Nation Address or SONA?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PAGLABAN SA CORRUPTION	29.8	35.0	32.7	19.3	29.7	42.1	29.6	13.8
PAG-IIMBESTIGA/PAGPAPANAGOT SA MGA SANGKOT SA FLOOD CONTROL SCANDAL	18.9	22.2	22.3	9.8	17.6	33.1	18.0	6.7
PAGLABAN SA CORRUPTION (GENERAL)	10.9	12.8	10.4	9.4	12.1	9.1	11.5	7.2
ABOT-KAYANG BILIHIN	18.7	18.8	16.7	22.7	19.4	12.4	19.1	23.8
PAGPAPALAGO NG TRABAHO/KABUHAYAN	6.6	7.0	7.9	7.5	3.0	9.4	6.1	7.2
SOLUSYON SA PROBLEMA NG MGA MAHIHIRAP	6.2	2.6	7.3	5.8	6.1	1.4	5.9	15.9
PROBLEMA SA ILIGAL NA DROGA	5.5	3.7	3.6	10.0	6.9	3.0	5.5	9.5
PAGPAPATAAS NG SAHOD/KITA	5.1	8.5	3.7	7.9	3.9	3.4	5.5	3.6
PAGPAPABABA NG PRESYO NG GASOLINA/LANGIS	4.9	8.8	4.7	2.6	5.0	4.1	5.2	3.1
MGA USAPIN NG MGA MAGSASAKA/MANGINGISDA/AGRIKULTURA	4.0	0.7	4.2	3.3	6.0	2.3	4.3	4.1
PAGLABAN SA KRIMINALIDAD	2.8	2.5	1.9	4.0	3.6	2.6	2.7	3.3
ESTADO NG EDUKASYON, PAGSASA-AYOS NG SISTEMA NG EDUKASYON	2.0	1.0	2.4	2.5	1.5	0.9	2.3	1.4
PAGTUPAD SA KANYANG MGA PANGAKO	1.6	0.8	2.2	1.1	1.4	0.6	1.7	2.9
IMPEACHMENT NI SARA DUTERTE	1.2	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.6	2.8	1.0	0.0
JUVENILE JUSTICE	1.0	0.9	1.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.2
MALUTAS ANG GULO SA SENADO	1.0	0.6	0.8	2.3	0.8	1.4	0.9	2.0
PAGTUGON SA MGA PANGANGAILANGAN NG MGA SENIORS	1.0	0.7	1.5	1.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.6
PAGPAPABUTI NG PROGRAMANG PANGKALUSUGAN (PAG-AYOS NG PHILHEALTH, LIBRENG OSPITAL, GAMOT, ATBP)	0.9	0.5	0.7	2.3	0.3	1.7	0.8	0.0
KAPAYAPAAAN/KATAHIMIKAN SA BANSA	0.8	0.3	1.0	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.3
KASO/KALAGAYAN NI DATING PANGULONG DUTERTE	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	2.8	0.2	0.8	0.0
PROGRAMANG PABAHAY	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	4.3
PAGBAWAS NG BUWIS; PAGTANGGAL NG BUWIS SA MGA PANGUNAHING BILIHIN	0.6	0.6	0.1	0.4	1.8	0.5	0.7	0.0

PR1&2, Q14. Ano po ang pinakagusto ninyong talakayin o banggitin ni Presidente Marcos sa darating niyang Ulat sa Bayan o SONA? (OPEN-ENDED)

Table 3
MOST LIKED ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS IN HIS COMING SONA

June 28 - July 3, 6, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent / OPEN-ENDED / VERBATIM)

page 2 of 2

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
What would you most like President Marcos Jr. to discuss or mention in his coming State of the Nation Address or SONA?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PAGKAKASUNDO NG MGA NAGKAKA-AWAY NA POLITIKO	0.6	0.6	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
PAGTATAGUYOD NG SOBERENYA NG BANSA	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.0	1.3	1.2	0.4	0.0
PAGPAPALAGO NG EKONOMIYA	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.5	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.3
PRESYO AT KAKAPUSAN NG ENERHIYA/KURYENTE	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.0
PAGBIBIGAY NG TULONG SA MGA NAAPEKTUHAN NG SAKUNA/KALAMIDAD	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.3	0.6
IPAKITA ANG NAGAWA PARA SA BANSA	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	1.4	0.2	0.0
PAGPAPALAWAK NG MGA PROYEKTONG IMPRASTRATURA	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.0
SOLUSYON SA KAGUTUMAN	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.2
MAG-RESIGN NA SIYA	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.0
PAGTUGON SA MGA USAPIN NG KABABAIHAN	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.3
AMININ ANG KANYANG PAGGAMIT NG DROGA/ PAGSASAILALIM SA DRUG TEST	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
IPATIGIL ANG PAGMIMINA NA NAKAKASIRA SA KAPALIGIRAN	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
PANG-AABUSO NG KAPANGYARIHAN	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.0
PAGBABAWAL SA MGA POLITICAL DYNASTY	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0
PAGPAPANIGURO NA PATAS ANG BATAS	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5
MASOLUSYONAN ANG PAGBAHA	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
KALAGAYAN AT USAPIN NG MGA PWD	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
PAGTUGON SA PANGANGAILANGAN NG MGA OFW	0.03	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
PAGHIHIMAY KUNG SAAN NAPUNTA ANG BADYET	0.02	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SERYOSONG PAGPAPATUPAD NG MGA BATAS	0.01	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
ANG UTANG NG BANSA	0.004	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHERS	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.4
CANT SAY	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.6
WALA	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0

PR1&2, Q14. Ano po ang pinakagusto ninyong talakayin o banggitin ni Presidente Marcos sa darating niyang Ulat sa Bayan o SONA? (OPEN-ENDED)