

MEDIA RELEASE

(October 15, 2026)

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

RE: Pulse Asia Research's September 2026 Nationwide Survey
on the Performance and Trustworthiness Ratings
of the President and the Vice-President

Pulse Asia Research, Inc. is pleased to share selected findings from the September 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey on the **Performance and Trustworthiness Ratings of the President and the Vice-President**. We would appreciate your assistance in helping inform the public by disseminating this information.

The survey fieldwork was conducted from **September 17 to 24, 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 September 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* survey:

1. The Vice-President's impeachment trial continued in September 2026, with the prosecution focusing on the unexplained wealth charge against her. During this period, there were also talks of the prosecution dropping the bribery charge for the purpose of expediting the trial. On 16 September 2026, four (4) former justices of the Supreme Court were invited to share their legal opinion regarding the voting threshold for convicting the Vice-President. Following this session, on 23 September 2026, the Senate impeachment court voted 13-1 to change the voting threshold from 16 to 14, with only those senator-judges "legally and factually capable" of participating in the proceedings being allowed

to vote. Most members of the minority bloc refused to take part in the vote on adjusting the impeachment conviction threshold.

2. On 05 September 2026, the Vice-President posted a bail of ₱360,000 following the issuance of an arrest warrant against her for three (3) count of grave threats, which are also part of the impeachment case against her. Speaking to reporters prior to posting her bail, the Vice-President said she felt unsafe as she did not trust the police, the courts, and the security personnel protecting her. The latter's arraignment, originally scheduled for 11 September 2026, was deferred indefinitely.
3. After being declared clinically stable by doctors at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez was transferred to the New Quezon City Jail on 14 September 2026. The latter was arrested on 07 September 2026 on a non-bailable plunder charge related to the flood control projects scandal. During his formal arraignment on 16 September 2026, the ex-House Speaker pleaded not guilty to the charge.
4. Former President Rodrigo R. Duterte appeared in person before the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 16 September 2026 for a "status hearing" on the case against him for crimes against humanity. Among the issues addressed during the hearing was the fitness of the ex-President to face the charges against him. The trial is scheduled to begin on 30 November 2026.
5. During a court hearing on 03 September 2026, the Sandiganyan Fifth Division entered a plea of not guilty for Senator Jinggoy Estrada, who declined to enter a plea in his plunder and graft cases having to do with the reported ₱573.75 M flood control infrastructure kickback scheme. The following day, former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan pleaded not guilty to a graft case filed against him in connection with claims that he conspired with Senator Estrada to include flood control projects in the 2025 annual budget, from which both are said to have received kickbacks.
6. About a month after issuing subpoenas to Batangas Representative Leandro Leviste and a few other individuals, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed a criminal complaint for qualified human trafficking against these personalities before the Department of Justice (DOJ) on 04 September 2026. The complaint stems from an alleged character assassination plot targeting Executive Secretary Ralph Recto that was reportedly funded by the lawmaker. A day prior to the issuance of the subpoenas, the latter left the country with his mother, Senator Loren Legarda, who was set to undergo medical treatment abroad.

In another development, the Department of Energy (DOE) reported that only ₱80 M has been recovered by the government from the ₱24-B penalty imposed on an energy company owned by Batangas Representative Leviste for its failure to produce the power capacity it promised to deliver under more than 30 service contracts. Meanwhile, Senator Legarda and Batangas Representative Leviste filed their counter-affidavits to the plunder and graft complaints filed against them before the Office of the Ombudsman. The camp of Senator Legarda said the complaints are baseless and called the preliminary investigation as political persecution.

7. The Office of the Ombudsman has also started a preliminary investigation into criminal and administrative complaints against former Senators Manuel and Cynthia Villar, incumbent Senators Mark and Camille Villar, Mr. Paolo Villar, and several key executives of Prime Water Infrastructure Corp. (PWIC). The charges have to do with “grossly disadvantageous” joint venture agreements between PWIC and local water districts. The Villar camp asked the public to refrain from making premature judgments and to respect the legal process.
8. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) held its first parliamentary elections on 14 September 2026. A little over 2 million voters cast their ballot, for a voter turnout of 84.34%. The 80 newly-elected officials, who were proclaimed by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) on 15 September 2026, are set to assume their respective posts on 30 October 2026. The COMELEC observed that the elections were generally peaceful, with only isolated cases of election-related violence.
9. Another school shooting, this time on 18 September 2026 in Banga, South Cotabato, resulted in the death of three (3) students and left six (6) to eight (8) others injured. Following this development, several lawmakers called on the Department of Education (DepEd), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other law enforcement agencies to immediately act to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents. On 03 September 2026, a national simultaneous school safety drill was conducted by the DepEd to “build calm operational confidence and muscle memory through proper orientation”.
10. The Department of Agriculture (DA) reported that agricultural damage caused by the enhanced southwest monsoon and several tropical cyclones has reached ₱ 4.38 B as of early September 2026. These weather disturbances hit the Cordillera, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, and Western Visayas regions. In the meantime, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said more than 40% of the 8.83 million people affected nationwide by these weather disturbances are in Central Luzon. For his part, the President said his administration will begin implementing a flood control masterplan that has been “ignored for decades”.

After the rains, the country now faces the threat of a very strong El Niño that is likely to emerge between September 2026 and December 2026, and persist until the first half of 2027, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). It is projected that Camarines Sur will experience drought conditions and that 61 provinces will have dry conditions and dry spells. The DA has already activated the El Niño Task Force to ensure that the country is adequately prepared to respond to the phenomenon.

11. The Supreme Court, through a ruling made public on 16 September 2026, stated that the failure of Congress to enact an anti-political dynasty law is a “grave abuse of discretion” and called for the immediate passage of such a legislative measure. The President, who has included the anti-political dynasty law among his priority bills, expressed support for the High Court’s ruling. While the House of Representatives has passed its version of the bill on 03 June 2026, the Senate is still deliberating on several versions of its own. Support

for the Supreme Court's decision have also come from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) as well as church and civil society entities.

12. The Senate, on 14 September 2026, approved a bill setting the terms of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials to five (5) years. Although the House of Representatives passed a counterpart measure on 08 September 2026, it decided to adopt the Senate's version, thus bypassing the need for a bicameral conference committee hearing. The President signed the legislative measure into law on 24 September 2026. Consequently, the barangay and SK elections scheduled for 02 November 2026 will be rescheduled for 13 November 2026.
13. Civil society groups held various activities on 21 September 2026 to mark the 54th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. Protesters called for accountability in connection with the flood control projects scandal and other reported abuses of power under the present administration, the immediate passage of the anti-political dynasty law, better working conditions, and greater protection for human rights.
14. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported that on 18 September 2026, a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel "intentionally rammed" a Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel that was on its way to provide fuel and food supplies to fishermen in the Kalayaan Island Group. The incident took place off the coast of Palawan. The PCG called the act a violation of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention while the Chinese Embassy said it was the BFAR vessel that caused the incident.
15. The Philippine peso continued to depreciate vis-à-vis the American dollar, hitting its highest closing level at ₱62.88 on 20 September 2026. This development has been attributed to the country's reliance on crude oil imports from the Middle East, its trade deficit, and the aftermath of the flood control project scandal, among others. The President said that while his administration can do little about global oil prices, it will focus its efforts on keeping inflation under control, especially food prices.

The country experienced three (3) consecutive weeks of fuel price hikes in September 2026 as the price of oil surged past US\$100 per barrel in the world market, due in part to the continuing conflict in the Middle East. With fuel prices going up, the Samahang Manibela, Mananakay, at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon (Manila) staged a two-day transport strike on 14-15 September 2026. The group called on the government to suspend petroleum taxes and implement strong fuel subsidy programs, among others.

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 September 2026 Ulat ng Bayan Survey:
Media Release on the Performance and Trustworthiness Ratings
of the President and the Vice-President
15 October 2026

Small majorities continue to approve of the Vice-President's performance (54%) and trust her (55%) while near majorities are critical of the President's work (49%) and express distrust in him (48%)

Performance ratings. In September 2026, disapproval is the plurality opinion toward the work done by the President in the past quarter (49%). Approval for the same is more marked than indecision (30% versus 21%). As for the Vice-President, appreciation remains the majority sentiment regarding her work (54%). More than a quarter of the adult population (27%) has a negative assessment of vice-presidential performance while almost a fifth (18%) is ambivalent on the matter. *(Please refer to Table 1.)*

Table 1
AWARENESS & PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF
TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(Row Percent)

Top National Government Officials	Aware	Base: Aware		
		Approval	Undecided	Disapproval
FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. (President)	100	30	21	49
SARA DUTERTE (Vice-President)	100	54	18	27

PR1&2, Q30. Mayroon ako ritong mga pangalan ng ilang mga kasalukuyang opisyal ng ating pambansang pamahalaan. Pakisabi ang inyong opinyon tungkol sa pagganap nila ng kanilang tungkulin nitong huling tatlong buwan. Sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito, kayo ba ay (SHOW AND READ RATING BOARD 2) kay (NAME) sa kanyang pagganap bilang (POSITION)?

Notes: (1) % Approve = % Truly Approve plus % Somewhat Approve; % Disapprove = % Somewhat Disapprove plus % Truly Disapprove.
(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

The President fails to score any majority approval rating across geographic areas and socioeconomic groupings. Instead, big pluralities to sizeable majorities in Metro Manila (45%), the Visayas (57%), Mindanao (71%), Class D (48%), and Class E (66%) are critical of the latter's quarterly performance. Essentially the same approval and disapproval ratings are obtained by the latter in the rest of Luzon (42% versus 36%) and Class ABC (37% versus 39%). *(Please refer to Table 2.)*

In contrast, at least half of those in the Visayas (58%), Mindanao (91%), Class ABC (50%), Class D (53%), and Class E (68%) approve of the work done by the Vice-President. The latter registers around or exactly the same approval and disapproval figures in Metro Manila (both at 42%) and the rest of Luzon (37% versus 39%). *(Please refer to Table 2.)*

Table 2
PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent)

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		BAL						
APPROVAL		NCR	LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	30	31	42	24	10	37	30	19
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	54	42	37	58	91	50	53	68
UNDECIDED								
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	21	23	21	20	19	24	21	15
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	18	16	24	22	5	15	19	16
DISAPPROVAL								
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	49	45	36	57	71	39	48	66
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	27	42	39	20	3	35	28	16

PR1&2, Mayroon ako ritong mga pangalan ng ilang mga kasalukuyang opisyal ng ating pambansang pamahalaan. Pakisabi ang inyong opinyon tungkol sa pagganap nila ng kanilang tungkulin Q30. nitong huling tatlong buwan. Sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito, kayo ba ay (SHOW AND READ RATING BOARD 2) kay (NAME) sa kanyang pagganap bilang (POSITION)?

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

(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Trustworthiness ratings. Public opinion on the matter of trusting or distrusting the President and the Vice-President generally follows Filipinos' assessment of their quarterly performance. Nearly half of Filipino adults (48%) distrust the President. The rest of the adult population either trusts the latter (29%) or are unable to say if they trust or distrust him (22%). In the case of the Vice-President, most adults trust her (55%). Distrust in the latter is more manifest than indecision about her trustworthiness (27% versus 19%). (Please refer to Table 3.)

Table 3
AWARENESS & TRUST RATINGS OF
TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(Row Percent)

Top National Government Officials	Aware	Base: Aware		
		Big Trust	Undecided	Small / No trust
FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. (President)	100	29	22	48
SARA DUTERTE (Vice-President)	100	55	19	27

PR1&2, Nais sana naming tanungin kayo tungkol sa pagtitiwala ninyo sa ilang mga tao ng pambansang pamahalaan.

Q31. Sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito, maaari bang pakisabi kung gaano kalaki o kaliit ang inyong pagtitiwala kay/sa [PERSONALIDAD]? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay (SHOW AND READ RATING BOARD)?

Notes: (1) % Big Trust = % Very Big Trust plus % Somewhat Big Trust; % Small/No Trust = % Somewhat Small Trust plus % Very Small/None Trust.

(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Distrust in the President is expressed by big pluralities to considerable majorities in Metro Manila (45%), the Visayas (60%), Mindanao (66%), Class D (48%), and Class E (55%). The President posts about the same trust and distrust scores in the rest of Luzon (43% versus 35%) and Class ABC (33% versus 41%). *(Please refer to Table 4.)*

Most Visayans (57%), Mindanawons (94%), and those belonging to any of the socioeconomic classes (53% to 69%) have a positive view of the Vice-President's trustworthiness. Essentially the same trust and distrust figures obtain in Metro Manila (43% versus 41%) and those in the rest of Luzon (37% versus 38%).

Table 4
TRUST RATINGS OF TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent)

TRUST	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		BAL	LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	29	29	43	23	8	33	30	19
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	55	43	37	57	94	54	53	69
UNDECIDED								
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	22	26	21	17	26	26	21	26
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	19	16	25	22	5	19	19	14
DISTRUST								
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	48	45	35	60	66	41	48	55
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	27	41	38	21	1	27	28	17

PR1&2, Nais sana naming tanungin kayo tungkol sa pagtitiwala ninyo sa ilang mga tao ng pambansang pamahalaan. Sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito, Q31. maaari bang pakisabi kung gaano kalaki o kaliit ang inyong pagtitiwala kay/sa [PERSONALIDAD]? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay (SHOW AND READ RATING BOARD)?

Notes: (1) % Big Trust = % Very Big Trust plus % Somewhat Big Trust; % Small/No Trust = % Somewhat Small Trust plus % Very Small/None Trust.
(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Public assessment of the performance and trustworthiness of the President and the Vice-President is virtually unchanged during the period July 2026 to September 2026

National performance and trustworthiness ratings remain constant from July 2026 to September 2026. This observation holds true for both the President and the Vice-President. *(Please refer to Tables 5 and 6.)*

Performance ratings. The President and the Vice-President's performance ratings are practically unchanged for the period July 2026 to September 2026 across geographic subgroupings. In Class ABC, approval for presidential performance becomes more marked (+17 percentage points) while disapproval eases (-19 percentage points). The reverse occurs in Class E, where disapproval for the President's work becomes more pronounced (+14 percentage points). As for the Vice-President, indecision on the matter of approving or disapproving her performance becomes more notable (+5 percentage points). *(Please refer to Table 5.)*

Table 5
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF
TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
July and September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent)

			LOCATION				CLASS		
			BAL						
APPROVAL		RP	NCR	LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	30	31	42	24	10	37	30	19
	Jul 26	29	35	40	24	6	20	30	28
	Change*	+ 1	- 4	+ 2	0	+ 4	+17	0	- 9
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	54	42	37	58	91	50	53	68
	Jul 26	56	40	42	61	89	44	57	70
	Change*	- 2	+ 2	- 5	- 3	+ 2	+ 6	- 4	- 2
UNDECIDED									
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	21	23	21	20	19	24	21	15
	Jul 26	21	22	24	23	15	22	21	20
	Change*	0	+ 1	- 3	- 3	+ 4	+ 2	0	- 5
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	18	16	24	22	5	15	19	16
	Jul 26	15	15	17	20	7	20	14	17
	Change*	+ 3	+ 1	+ 7	+ 2	- 2	- 5	+ 5	- 1
DISAPPROVAL									
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	49	45	36	57	71	39	48	66
	Jul 26	50	43	36	53	79	58	48	52
	Change*	- 1	+ 2	0	+ 4	- 8	- 19	0	+14
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	27	42	39	20	3	35	28	16
	Jul 26	29	45	41	18	4	35	29	13
	Change*	- 2	- 3	- 2	+ 2	- 1	0	- 1	+ 3

Notes: (1) *Change = Figures of September 2026 minus Figures of July 2026.

(2) % Approve = % Truly Approve plus % Somewhat Approve; % Disapprove = % Somewhat Disapprove plus % Truly Disapprove.

(3) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Trustworthiness ratings. From July 2026 to September 2026, the President experiences a drop in his distrust ratings in Mindanao (-11 percentage points) and Class ABC (-16 percentage points). However, ambivalence toward the latter's trustworthiness becomes more manifest among Mindanawons (+11 percentage points). The only significant change in vice-presidential trustworthiness figures is the decline in trust in Class D (-5 percentage points). (Please refer to Table 6.)

Table 6
COMPARATIVE TRUST RATINGS OF
TOP NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
July and September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent)

TRUST		RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
			NCR	BAL LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	29	29	43	23	8	33	30	19
	Jul 26	28	33	39	22	8	22	29	28
	Change*	+ 1	- 4	+ 4	+ 1	0	+11	+ 1	- 9
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	55	43	37	57	94	54	53	69
	Jul 26	58	41	41	65	95	51	58	70
	Change*	- 3	+ 2	- 4	- 8	- 1	+ 3	- 5	- 1
UNDECIDED									
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	22	26	21	17	26	26	21	26
	Jul 26	21	25	24	20	15	21	22	18
	Change*	+ 1	+ 1	- 3	- 3	+11	+ 5	- 1	+ 8
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	19	16	25	22	5	19	19	14
	Jul 26	16	16	21	18	2	17	16	12
	Change*	+ 3	0	+ 4	+ 4	+ 3	+ 2	+ 3	+ 2
DISTRUST									
PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.	Sep 26	48	45	35	60	66	41	48	55
	Jul 26	51	42	38	57	77	57	49	54
	Change*	- 3	+ 3	- 3	+ 3	- 11	- 16	- 1	+ 1
VICE-PRESIDENT SARA DUTERTE	Sep 26	27	41	38	21	1	27	28	17
	Jul 26	27	43	37	17	3	33	27	18
	Change*	0	- 2	+ 1	+ 4	- 2	- 6	+ 1	- 1

Notes: (1) *Change = Figures of September 2026 minus Figures of July 2026.

(2) % Big Trust = % Very Big Trust plus % Somewhat Big Trust; % Small/No Trust = % Somewhat Small Trust plus % Very Small/None Trust.

(3) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.