

MEDIA RELEASE

(October 15, 2026)

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

RE: Pulse Asia Research's September 2026 Nationwide Survey
on Urgent National Concerns and the Performance Ratings
of the National Administration on Selected Issues

Pulse Asia Research, Inc. is pleased to share selected findings from the September 2026 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey on **Urgent National Concerns and the Performance Ratings of the National Administration on Selected Issues**. 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 P360,000 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 P573.75 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 P80 M has been recovered by the government from the P24-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 P 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 P62.88 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 Urgent National Concerns and the Performance Ratings
of the National Administration on Selected Issues
15 October 2026

Filipinos continue to be most concerned about the need to control inflation (71%); public concern regarding selected national issues is essentially constant from July 2026 and September 2026 and year-on-year

Out of 19 selected issues, inflation is the only issue that most Filipino adults (71%) say the national administration must immediately address. A distant second are fighting graft and corruption in government (39%) and increasing workers' pay (36%). Fighting criminality (24%) and reducing poverty (21%) comprise a third set of urgent national concerns while in fourth place are creating more jobs (18%), fighting the sale and use of illegal drugs (18%), and reducing the price of gasoline amidst the current energy crisis (14%). A fifth set of national issues Filipinos are concerned about includes helping farmers (9%), promoting peace (9%), addressing the problem of involuntary hunger (8%), enforcing the rule of law (7%), reducing taxes (6%), responding to the needs of disaster-affected areas (6%), protecting the environment (5%), and providing assistance to small entrepreneurs (5%). Filipinos are least concerned about defending national territorial integrity (2%), protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (1%), and preparing to face terrorist threats (1%). (Please refer to Table 1.)

Table 1
MOST URGENT NATIONAL CONCERNS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%				
	OVERALL	RANKED		
		FIRST	SECOND	THIRD
Controlling inflation	71	36	22	13
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt government officials accountable	39	10	15	14
Increasing the pay of workers	36	13	12	11
Fighting criminality	24	10	7	7
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	21	4	9	8
Creating more jobs	18	3	7	8
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	18	5	5	8
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	14	4	4	6
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	9	3	3	3
Promoting peace in the country	9	2	3	4
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	8	1	2	5
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	7	2	2	3
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	6	1	3	2
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	6	1	2	2
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	5	1	2	2
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	5	1	2	2
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	2	1	0.4	1
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	1	0.2	0.4	0.2
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	1	0.1	0.05	1

PR1&2, Q9. Sa mga sumusunod na isyung pambansa, pakisabi ang hanggang tatlong isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon ni Presidente Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. Maaari kayong magbanggit ng iba pang wala sa listahan. Alin po ang unang isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon? Ang pangalawa? Ang pangatlo?

Controlling inflation is the leading first- and second-mentioned response (36% and 22%, respectively). The top third-mentioned urgent national concerns are fighting graft and corruption in government (14%), controlling inflation (13%), and increasing the pay of workers (11%). Additionally, inflation is the only issue mentioned by majorities in each geographic and socioeconomic subgrouping (60% to 76% and 60% to 75%, respectively). In contrast, issues identified as urgent by less than 10% across all areas and classes are helping small entrepreneurs (4% to 9% and 2% to 8%, respectively), defending national territorial integrity (1% to 3% and 2% to 4%, respectively), protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (both at almost nil to 2%), and preparing to deal with terrorist threats (virtually nil to 1% and practically none to 3%, respectively). (Please refer to Table 2.)

Table 2
MOST URGENT NATIONAL CONCERNS: OVERALL
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%								
NATIONAL CONCERNS	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
Controlling inflation	71	60	76	73	67	60	72	75
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt government officials accountable	39	45	43	38	29	41	40	31
Increasing the pay of workers	36	35	38	39	31	26	38	30
Fighting criminality	24	14	20	28	35	22	24	30
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	21	16	21	20	24	18	20	35
Creating more jobs	18	13	21	18	17	12	18	26
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	18	15	11	16	32	17	18	18
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	14	24	11	15	14	20	14	10
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	9	6	9	11	9	10	9	12
Promoting peace in the country	9	8	9	8	9	10	8	8
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	8	8	8	7	10	7	9	6
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	7	11	8	4	5	12	7	3
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	6	10	6	7	4	12	6	4
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	6	7	5	6	5	10	5	5
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	5	11	6	3	2	6	5	2
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	5	9	4	4	4	8	5	2
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	2	3	3	1	1	4	2	2
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	0
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0

PR1&2, Q9. Sa mga sumusunod na isyung pambansa, pakisabi ang hanggang tatlong isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon ni Presidente Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. Maaari kayong magbanggit ng iba pang wala sa listahan. Alin po ang unang isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon? Ang pangalawa? Ang pangatlo?

Overall, the only notable change in public opinion regarding urgent national issues are the increase in the level of concern about controlling inflation (+14 percentage points) and the drop in the level of concern about reducing poverty (-5 percentage points). In the different areas and classes, changes in public opinion about the following issues may be noted:

1. controlling inflation – the rest of Luzon (+19 percentage points), Mindanao (+17 percentage points), and all classes (+13 to +18 percentage points);
2. fighting graft and corruption – Metro Manila (-11 percentage points);
3. increasing the pay of workers – Class ABC (-14 percentage points);
4. fighting criminality – Mindanao (+11 percentage points);
5. reducing poverty – Class D (-5 percentage points);
6. creating more jobs – Class E (+13 percentage points); and
7. addressing the problem of involuntary hunger – Mindanao (-9 percentage points) and Class E (-12 percentage points). (Please refer to Table 3.)

Table 3
MOST URGENT NATIONAL CONCERNS
July and September 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

Base: Total Interviews									
NATIONAL CONCERNS		RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
			NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
Controlling inflation	Sep '26	71	60	76	73	67	60	72	75
	Jul '26	57	55	57	65	50	47	58	57
	Change*	+14	+ 5	+19	+ 8	+17	+13	+14	+18
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt government officials accountable**	Sep '26	39	45	43	38	29	41	40	31
	Jul '26	43	56	47	31	36	48	43	28
	Change*	- 4	- 11	- 4	+ 7	- 7	- 7	- 3	+ 3
Increasing the pay of workers	Sep '26	36	35	38	39	31	26	38	30
	Jul '26	36	43	32	46	31	40	35	40
	Change*	0	- 8	+ 6	- 7	0	- 14	+ 3	- 10
Fighting criminality	Sep '26	24	14	20	28	35	22	24	30
	Jul '26	22	13	20	30	24	20	22	22
	Change*	+ 2	+ 1	0	- 2	+11	+ 2	+ 2	+ 8
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	Sep '26	21	16	21	20	24	18	20	35
	Jul '26	26	19	28	25	27	25	25	33
	Change*	- 5	- 3	- 7	- 5	- 3	- 7	- 5	+ 2
Creating more jobs	Sep '26	18	13	21	18	17	12	18	26
	Jul '26	15	13	17	16	10	9	16	13
	Change*	+ 3	0	+ 4	+ 2	+ 7	+ 3	+ 2	+13
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	Sep '26	18	15	11	16	32	17	18	18
	Jul '26	19	15	16	19	26	20	18	25
	Change*	- 1	0	- 5	- 3	+ 6	- 3	0	- 7
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	Sep '26	14	24	11	15	14	20	14	10
	Jul '26	13	25	11	7	15	22	12	10
	Change*	+ 1	- 1	0	+ 8	- 1	- 2	+ 2	0
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	Sep '26	9	6	9	11	9	10	9	12
	Jul '26	9	4	7	9	16	11	9	11
	Change*	0	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	- 7	- 1	0	+ 1
Promoting peace in the country	Sep '26	9	8	9	8	9	10	8	8
	Jul '26	11	13	11	9	11	13	11	11
	Change*	- 2	- 5	- 2	- 1	- 2	- 3	- 3	- 3
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	Sep '26	8	8	8	7	10	7	9	6
	Jul '26	11	4	9	10	19	6	11	18
	Change*	- 3	+ 4	- 1	- 3	- 9	+ 1	- 2	- 12
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	Sep '26	7	11	8	4	5	12	7	3
	Jul '26	11	9	14	9	7	8	11	9
	Change*	- 4	+ 2	- 6	- 5	- 2	+ 4	- 4	- 6
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	Sep '26	6	10	6	7	4	12	6	4
	Jul '26	7	9	7	6	5	10	7	3
	Change*	- 1	+ 1	- 1	+ 1	- 1	+ 2	- 1	+ 1
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	Sep '26	6	7	5	6	5	10	5	5
	Jul '26	5	7	3	3	7	4	5	8
	Change*	+ 1	0	+ 2	+ 3	- 2	+ 6	0	- 3
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	Sep '26	5	11	6	3	2	6	5	2
	Jul '26	6	5	8	5	3	5	6	6
	Change*	- 1	+ 6	- 2	- 2	- 1	+ 1	- 1	- 4
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	Sep '26	5	9	4	4	4	8	5	2
	Jul '26	5	5	5	4	6	4	5	3
	Change*	0	+ 4	- 1	0	- 2	+ 4	0	- 1
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	Sep '26	2	3	3	1	1	4	2	2
	Jul '26	3	3	5	2	2	3	3	2
	Change*	- 1	0	- 2	- 1	- 1	+ 1	- 1	0
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	Sep '26	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	0
	Jul '26	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1
	Change*	- 1	0	- 2	0	- 1	- 1	- 1	- 1
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	Sep '26	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
	Jul '26	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
	Change*	0	0	- 1	- 2	- 1	+ 2	- 2	- 1

Q. Sa mga sumusunod na isyung pambansa, pakisabi ang hanggang tatlong isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon ni Presidente Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. Maaari kayong magbanggit ng iba pang wala sa listahan. Alin po ang unang isyung dapat aksyunan agad ng administrasyon? Ang pangalawa? Ang pangatlo?

Note: *Change = Figures of Ulat ng Bayan (UB) September 2026 minus Figures of UB July 2026.

During the period September 2025 to September 2026, Filipinos become more concerned about the need to control the spiraling prices of basic commodities (+17 percentage points). On the other hand, levels of concern about fighting corruption in government and reducing taxes go down (-12 and -6 percentage points, respectively). (Please refer to Table 5.)

Table 4
MOST URGENT NATIONAL CONCERNS
September 2025 to September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

National Concerns	Sep25	Dec25	Mar26	PR1&2		Change*
				Jul26	Sep26	Sep26 - Jul26
Controlling inflation	54	59	59	57	71	+14
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt government officials accountable**	51	48	47	43	39	- 4
Increasing the pay of workers	37	39	36	36	36	0
Fighting criminality	23	19	17	22	24	+ 2
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	23	22	21	26	21	- 5
Creating more jobs	20	19	21	15	18	+ 3
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	22	18	21	19	18	- 1
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	---	---	---	13	14	+ 1
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	11	9	14	9	9	0
Promoting peace in the country	10	9	9	11	9	- 2
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	10	8	10	11	8	- 3
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	8	13	11	11	7	- 4
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	12	8	7	7	6	- 1
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	---	8	8	5	6	+ 1
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	6	10	9	6	5	- 1
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	5	6	5	5	5	0
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	4	2	2	3	2	- 1
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	3	3	3	2	1	- 1
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	1	1	1	1	1	0

Notes: (1) *Change = Figures of Ulat ng Bayan (UB) September 2026 minus Figures of UB July 2026.

(2) **Fighting graft and corruption in government (September 2025 - March 2026).

Table 5
MOST URGENT NATIONAL CONCERNS (YEAR-ON-YEAR)
September 2025 and September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent / Multiple Response, up to 3 allowed)

National Concerns	Sep '25	Sep '26	Change**
			Sep26 - Sep25
Controlling inflation	54	71	+17
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt government officials accountable	51	39	- 12
Increasing the pay of workers	37	36	- 1
Fighting criminality	23	24	+ 1
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	23	21	- 2
Creating more jobs	20	18	- 2
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	22	18	- 4
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	---	14	---
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	11	9	- 2
Promoting peace in the country	10	9	- 1
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	10	8	- 2
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	8	7	- 1
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	12	6	- 6
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	---	6	---
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	6	5	- 1
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	5	5	0
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	4	2	- 2
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	3	1	- 2
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	1	1	0

Note: **Year-on-year = Figures of September 2026 minus Figures of September 2025

The only majority approval rating of the incumbent national administration is recorded on the issue of protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (1%) while its highest disapproval rating is posted on the issue of controlling inflation (81%); there are more changes in overall performance ratings year-on-year than quarter-to-quarter

A small majority of Filipino adults (52%) are appreciative of the present dispensation's efforts to protect the welfare of overseas Filipino workers, an issue considered as urgent by only 1% of the adult population. In contrast, the prevailing sentiment toward the latter's handling of these six (6) issues is one of disapproval — controlling inflation (81%), fighting the sale and use of illegal drugs (71%), fighting corruption (70%), reducing poverty (67%), lowering the price of gasoline (65%), and fighting criminality (57%). To reiterate, inflation is the top urgent concern of Filipino adults (71%) while poverty, criminality, and corruption are issues cited as urgent national concerns by at least a fifth of the adult population (21% to 39%). (Please refer to Table 6.)

Table 6
PERCEIVED URGENCY OF SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUES AND
THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION'S PERFORMANCE RATINGS
September 17 - 24, 2026 / Philippines / PR1&2
(Row Percent)

Selected National Issues	% citing as One of Three Most Urgent Issues	Approve	Undecided	Disapprove	NAR*
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	1	52	27	21	+31
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	6	40	25	35	+ 5
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	9	35	31	34	+ 1
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	2	33	34	34	- 1
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	1	30	39	31	- 1
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	5	26	39	35	- 9
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	5	28	34	38	- 10
Creating more jobs	18	32	24	44	- 12
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	7	27	31	42	- 15
Increasing the pay of workers	36	29	21	49	- 20
Promoting peace in the country	9	23	29	47	- 24
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	8	22	29	49	- 27
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	6	20	30	50	- 30
Fighting criminality	24	24	19	57	- 33
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	14	14	21	65	- 51
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt gov't officials accountable	39	15	15	70	- 55
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	21	11	22	67	- 56
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	18	13	16	71	- 58
Controlling inflation	71	10	10	81	- 71

PR1&2, Q11a-s. Nais naming malaman ang inyong opinyon tungkol sa pagganap sa tungkulin ng administrasyon ni Presidente Marcos Jr. sa pagharap nito sa mga sumusunod na isyung pambansa nitong huling tatlong buwan. Sa bawat isyung mabanggit, sa pamamagitan po ng board na ito, maaari bang pakisabi ninyo kung kayo ay (SHOW AND READ RATING BOARD) sa pagganap sa tungkulin ng administrasyon ni Presidente Marcos Jr. sa mga isyung 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 UB July not add up to 100% due to rounding off or to Don't Know and Refuse responses.

The plurality sentiment toward the national administration's work in responding to the needs of calamity-affected areas is one of approval (40%) while big plurality to near majority disapproval scores are recorded on the issues of enforcing the rules of law (42%), creating more jobs (44%), promoting peace (47%), increasing workers' pay (49%), addressing the problem of involuntary hunger (49%), and reducing taxes (50%). A sizeable plurality of the adult population (39%) cannot say if they approve or disapprove of the latter's efforts to deal with terrorist threats.

Basically the same disapproval and indecision figures are posted on the issues of helping small entrepreneurs (35% versus 39%) and protecting the environment (38% versus 34%). There is a three-way split in public assessment of the incumbent administration's work in the areas of defending national territorial integrity (33% approval, 34% indecision, and 34% disapproval) and helping farmers (35% approval, 31% indecision, and 34% disapproval).

The only significant movements in the national administration's performance ratings from July 2026 to September 2026 are registered on the following issues:

1. protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers — +6 percentage points in approval and -7 percentage points in disapproval;
2. preparing to face terrorist threats — -6 percentage points in disapproval;
3. promoting peace — +5 percentage points in indecision;
4. lowering the price of gasoline — -6 percentage points in approval and +6 percentage points in disapproval; and
5. reducing poverty — +6 percentage points in disapproval. *(Please refer to Table 7.)*

Table 7
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION ON SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUES
July and September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Selected National Issues	Approval		Change*	Undecided		Change*	Disapproval		Change*
	Jul 26 (A)	Sep 26 (B)	Sep26- Jul26 (B - A)	Jul 26 (C)	Sep 26 (D)	Sep26- Jul26 (D - C)	Jul 26 (E)	Sep 26 (F)	Sep26- Jul26 (F - E)
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	46	52	+ 6	27	27	0	28	21	- 7
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	42	40	- 2	26	25	- 1	31	35	+ 4
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	33	35	+ 2	33	31	- 2	35	34	- 1
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	34	33	- 1	32	34	+ 2	34	34	0
Creating more jobs	31	32	+ 1	24	24	0	45	44	- 1
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	29	30	+ 1	35	39	+ 4	37	31	- 6
Increasing the pay of workers	31	29	- 2	22	21	- 1	47	49	+ 2
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	30	28	- 2	32	34	+ 2	38	38	0
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	28	27	- 1	29	31	+ 2	43	42	- 1
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	26	26	0	36	39	+ 3	38	35	- 3
Fighting criminality	24	24	0	20	19	- 1	56	57	+ 1
Promoting peace in the country	26	23	- 3	24	29	+ 5	50	47	- 3
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	23	22	- 1	25	29	+ 4	53	49	- 4
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	20	20	0	26	30	+ 4	54	50	- 4
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt gov't officials accountable	16	15	- 1	16	15	- 1	68	70	+ 2
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	20	14	- 6	21	21	0	59	65	+ 6
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	14	13	- 1	16	16	0	70	71	+ 1
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	15	11	- 4	24	22	- 2	61	67	+ 6
Controlling inflation	12	10	- 2	12	10	- 2	77	81	+ 4

*Change = Figures of UB September 2026 minus Figures of UB July 2026.

In contrast, during the period September 2025 to September 2026, disapproval for the administration's handling of 12 issues becomes more pronounced. These issues are protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (+5 percentage points), addressing the problem of involuntary hunger (+6 percentage points), increasing workers' pay (+7 percentage points), enforcing the rule of law (+8 percentage points), creating more jobs (+9 percentage points), protecting the environment (+9 percentage points), defending national territorial integrity (+10 percentage points), fighting the sale and use of illegal drugs (+10 percentage points), reducing poverty (+10 percentage points), promoting peace (+12 percentage points), fighting criminality (+13 percentage points), and controlling inflation (+17 percentage points). (Please refer to Table 8.)

Conversely, levels of approval for the national administration's quarterly performance decline on the issues of protecting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers (-6 percentage points), helping calamity-hit areas (-6 percentage points), increasing the pay of workers (-6 percentage points), fighting the sale and use of illegal drugs (-6 percentage points), controlling inflation (-6 percentage points), protecting the environment (-7 percentage points), fighting criminality (-7 percentage points), reducing poverty (-7 percentage points), defending national territorial integrity (-10 percentage points), and promoting peace (-10 percentage points).

As regards indecision, it becomes less marked on the issues of enforcing the rule of law (-5 percentage points), creating more jobs (-6 percentage points), fighting criminality (-6 percentage points), and controlling inflation (-10 percentage points).

Table 8
COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RATINGS OF THE NATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION ON SELECTED NATIONAL ISSUES (YEAR-ON-YEAR)
September 2025 and September 2026 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Selected National Issues	Approval		Change*	Undecided		Change*	Disapproval		Change*
	Sep 25 (A)	Sep 26 (B)	Sep26- Sep25 (B - A)	Sep 25 (C)	Sep 26 (D)	Sep26- Sep25 (D - C)	Sep 25 (E)	Sep 26 (F)	Sep26- Sep25 (F - E)
Protecting the welfare of OFWs	58	52	- 6	26	27	+ 1	16	21	+ 5
Responding to the needs of areas affected by calamities	46	40	- 6	22	25	+ 3	31	35	+ 4
Providing assistance to farmers including selling their products	39	35	- 4	28	31	+ 3	33	34	+ 1
Defending the integrity of Philippine territory against foreigners	43	33	- 10	33	34	+ 1	24	34	+10
Creating more jobs	34	32	- 2	30	24	- 6	35	44	+ 9
Preparing to face any kind of terrorism	---	30	---	---	39	---	---	31	---
Increasing the pay of workers	35	29	- 6	24	21	- 3	42	49	+ 7
Stopping the destruction and abuse of our environment	35	28	- 7	35	34	- 1	29	38	+ 9
Enforcing the law on all, whether influential or ordinary people	29	27	- 2	36	31	- 5	34	42	+ 8
Providing support to small entrepreneurs to restore their businesses	---	26	---	---	39	---	---	35	---
Fighting criminality	31	24	- 7	25	19	- 6	44	57	+13
Promoting peace in the country	33	23	- 10	32	29	- 3	35	47	+12
Addressing the problem of involuntary hunger	25	22	- 3	32	29	- 3	43	49	+ 6
Reducing the amount of taxes paid	---	20	---	---	30	---	---	50	---
Fighting graft and corruption in government including holding corrupt gov't officials accountable	17	15	- 2	15	15	0	69	70	+ 1
Lowering the price of gasoline in light of the energy crisis caused by the war in the Middle East	---	14	---	---	21	---	---	65	---
Fighting the widespread sale and use of illegal drugs	19	13	- 6	20	16	- 4	61	71	+10
Reducing the poverty of many Filipinos	18	11	- 7	25	22	- 3	57	67	+10
Controlling inflation	16	10	- 6	20	10	- 10	64	81	+17

*Change = Figures of UB September 2026 minus Figures of UB September 2025.

**UB September 2025 = Fighting graft and corruption in government only.