

# DATELINE PHILIPPINES

## Pulse Asia: Escudero, Legarda top VP bets for 2010 polls

by DINO MARAGAY  
Philstar.com



Sen. Chiz Escudero



Sen. Loren Legarda

OPPOSITION senators Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda are the top preferences for the vice president post in the May 2010 elections, pollster Pulse Asia announced June 3.

In a press statement released June 3, Pulse Asia's latest survey said Escudero will win the vice presidential race if the elections were held now, with the young opposition senator garnering 24 percent of votes. Legarda is at close second with 21 percent.

"Senator Escudero leads the list of vice-presidential bets in Metro Manila (36 percent) and Class ABC (30 percent). In Luzon and Classes D and E, the top candidates are Senator Escudero, Senator Legarda, and Vice-President [Noli] De Castro," the pollster said.

Pulse Asia added that almost two in 10 Filipino voters (17 percent) are inclined to re-elect De Castro. Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay is the only other individual to score a double-digit voter preference (10 percent).

"The candidacies of the other personalities included in the vice-presidential probe are supported by 9 percent or less of Filipinos. Meanwhile, less than one in ten Filipinos (6 percent) is not inclined to vote for any of those whose vice-presidential voter preferences are probed in this survey," Pulse Asia said.

### Roxas favored to top senatorial race

For the senatorial race, Pulse Asia said Sen. Manuel Roxas III is the heavy favorite with a 49.5 percent overall voter preference — which translates to a statistical ranking of first to second places.

"The other individuals who would have a statistical chance of winning if the May 2010 elections were conducted now are Senator [Jinggoy] Estrada (46 percent), Senator Pia S. Cayetano [43.5 percent], Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago (43.1 percent), Senator Ramon Revilla, Jr. [41.4 percent], Senator Jamby A.S. Madrigal [40.9 percent], former Senate President Franklin M. Drilon [38.7 percent], National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary-General Ralph G. Recto [36.2 percent], Atty. Aquilino L. Pimentel [31.9 percent], Makati City Mayor Binay [30.5 percent], Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) Chairperson Vicente C. Sotto III [29.8 percent], former Senator Sergio Osmeña III [29.4 percent], Senator Richard Gordon [25.4 percent], and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile [25.1 percent]," Pulse Asia said.

The latest Pulse Asia nationwide survey, fielded from May 4-17, 2009, was carried out using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 representative adults 18 years old and above. It has a ± 3 percent error margin at the 95 percent 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 ±6 percent error margin, also at the 95 percent confidence level.

## Teodoro rating disappoints Malacañang

by CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA  
Inquirer.net

MALACAÑANG is not at all amused by Defense Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro's measly one-percent rating in the latest Pulse Asia survey of voters' preferred presidential aspirants.

"I'm surprised and disappointed that the ratings of Secretary Teodoro are the way they were presented in the survey," Gabriel Claudio, presidential political adviser, said June 3 at a press briefing. "I personally would have expected, would have wanted to see him post higher ratings."

Teodoro, a former member of the House of Representatives, is seeking to be the standard-bearer of the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II is not complaining about his rating, which rose 5 percentage points to 13 percent.

His rating put him in a statistical tie with Vice President Noli de Castro (18 percent), Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero (17 percent) and former President Joseph Estrada (14 percent).

The nationwide survey, conducted on May 4-17, had a margin

of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

### Korina factor

Roxas acknowledged that his fiancée, broadcaster Korina Sanchez, was a factor in the boost he got from the survey. He said people knew about his romance with Sanchez, whom he is set to marry this year.

"I reckon that people saw what was in my heart and they rewarded me with more trust," the 51-year-old senator said.

Roxas also said he would visit the relatives of Sanchez on Saturday to formally ask for her hand in marriage.

The couple announced their engagement in late April.

### Lack of ads

Sen. Loren Legarda attributed the 5-percent point drop in her rating from 12 percent in February to 7 percent last month to her lack of advertisements.

"It doesn't bother me a bit because those were just ads," she told reporters.

Legarda said that if a candidate had P100 million to spend for ads,

the candidate was expected to top surveys.

She said some potential candidates would run ads either from personal funds or even government funds.

### Provincial visits

Legarda said she would go to the provinces in the next three months to consult people on her vision and platform as a

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