

Negros solons want Cory as 'national hero'

by CARLA GOMEZ
Inquirer.net



(Neg. Occ., 4th District) and Ignacio Arroyo (Neg. Occ., 5th District) did not respond.

"For fighting a dictator, restoring democracy and giving back our freedom, President Aquino is a hero," Marañon said.

Alvarez called Aquino a fair and honest leader who did a lot to help Negros Occidental and the sixth district of Negros Occidental during her presidency.

He recalled how, through former Governor Daniel Lacson Jr., Aquino brought much needed electrification and roads to the then rebel-infested towns of Cauayan to Hinobaan in southern Negros Occidental.

Through Aquino and Lacson,

Alvarez said that he was able to create 60 new extension high schools throughout Negros Occidental for students living in remote areas.

Puentevella said he would co-author the bill seeking Aquino's declaration as a national hero while Lacson vowed to support the bill.

Ledesma explained that he did not mean to belittle the intent of the proposed bills declaring former President Aquino as a national hero.

He maintained that because of her works, many Filipinos already considered former President Aquino as a national hero, adding that "People Power" (the kind of political engagement encouraged by Aquino and which lies in the concerted efforts of the middle to lower classes to pressure their government for a just cause) need not be legislated. ■

SWS: Government performance still bad but improving

by HELEN FLORES
Philstar.com

MANILA—The Arroyo administration's net satisfaction rating improved by eight points to a still "poor" -11 percent, a Social Weather Stations survey for the second quarter of 2009 said.

The Palace welcomed the latest survey result and attributed it to hard work put in by President Arroyo.

The survey, conducted from June 19 to 22, found 32 percent of adults satisfied and 42 percent dissatisfied with the overall performance of the national administration, for a "poor" net satisfaction rating of -11.

SWS said the net satisfaction ratings of the national administration used to be a poor -19 in February 2009.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said the latest ratings were the "fruit of hard work, dedication and efficient leadership."

SWS said it asked the public to rate the performance of the national administration on specific issues.

"Compared to the previous quarter, the net satisfaction ratings of the national administration were better on 7 out of 13 issues," the SWS said.

Of the 13 issues tested, SWS said the June 2009 survey found the national administration scoring a "good" net satisfaction rating of +40 on the issue of protecting the public from the outbreak of diseases.

The national administration received "moderate" ratings on the issues of Foreign relations (+23), Promoting the welfare of overseas Filipinos workers (OFWs) (+23), Fighting terrorism (+15), Ensuring that medicines are affordable (+14), Campaigning against illegal drugs (+10), and Helping the poor (+10).

It obtained "neutral" ratings on Reconciliation with Muslim rebels (+9), Protecting the Philippines from the economic crisis in the US and other advanced countries (+4), and Fighting crime (+1).

It switched from "neutral to moderate" for Fighting terrorism, up by 11 points from +4 to +15, and for

Ensuring that medicines are affordable, up by eight points from +6 to +14.

It became more positive for promoting the welfare of OFWs, up by seven points from moderate +16 to moderate +23, and for Reconciliation with Muslim rebels, by five points from neutral +4 to neutral +9.

Palace economic spokesman Gary Olivar said while the news was welcome, "this doesn't change the President's basic philosophy to govern for performance and posterity, not popularity."

Olivar added that "polls are fickle, but the President's achievements will stand the test of time and the judgment of history."

Meanwhile, the non-commissioned survey showed that the Arroyo administration received poor rating on Fighting inflation (-14), Ensuring that no family will ever be hungry and have nothing to eat (-21), and Eradicating graft and corruption in the government (-21).

Its rating on the issue of Eradicating graft and corruption switched from "bad to poor" or up by 11 points from -32 to -21.

It became less negative for Ensuring that no family will ever be hungry and have nothing to eat, by five points from poor -26 to poor -21, and Fighting inflation, by three points from poor -17 to poor -14.

SWS said dissatisfaction with the performance of the Arroyo administration eased in all areas, with the sharpest improvement noted in Mindanao.

The national administration's net satisfaction rating rose by 16 points in Mindanao, switching from a poor -18 in February 2009 to a neutral -2 in June.

It rose by 10 points in Metro Manila, from poor -29 to poor -19, by nine points in the Visayas, from poor -21 to poor -12, and by 4 points in balance Luzon, from poor -16 to poor -12.

SWS defined net satisfaction ratings as follows: +50 and above, "very good"; +30 to +49, "good"; +10 to +29, "moderate"; +9 to -9, "neutral"; -10 to -29, "poor"; -30 to -49, "bad"; -50 or lower, "very bad." ■

Guinness Book slot eyed for Cory honor guard

by TARRA QUISMUNDO
Inquirer.net

THE Philippine National Police is pushing the hype over the "motionless" cop one step further.

After rewarding him with cash and a promotion, the PNP will try to get worldwide recognition for Police Officer 2 Danilo Malab Jr. for his service as an honor guard during last week's funeral march for former Pres. Corazon Aquino.

The PNP has asked the Guinness Book of World Records to cite Malab's feat of standing still for almost nine hours without food or rest on the adorned truck that brought Aquino's casket to the cemetery on Aug. 5.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina last Aug. 11 said an online application had been sent on behalf of the rookie cop to the Guinness office in England.

"This is for standing at attention for the longest time in a funeral procession under the heat of the sun, and alternately under the rain, while in full dress gala uniform for the late President," Espina said.

The PNP did some research online to check whether records similar to Malab's feat had been set before.

It came across one Guinness entry on Joaquim Suresh, a Sri Lankan who currently holds the record for the longest time spent standing motionless at 21 hours and 30 minutes.

But the PNP remained confident Malab would earn his own spot in the Guinness book.

A different category

Espina noted that Suresh performed his stunt under a controlled environment, while Malab remained on his feet on a moving truck, at times under the rain, and

occasionally hit by coins mourners crowding the streets then tossed in the direction of Aquino's coffin as a farewell ritual.

"(Malab may be cited) under a different category...apart from records like that held by Suresh. Malab stood motionless under different circumstances," Espina said.

He said the PNP was ready to submit photos and video footage of Malab's hours on the truck if required by Guinness.

"They will deliberate (on our application) for three to four weeks. We have to wait for the results. They will communicate with us and let's see from there how the process will go," he said.

AFP's turn

It was the first time the PNP sought a citation from the international record body.

Malab, 25, and three counterparts from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, reaped praises, medals, cash rewards, and unexpected publicity after delivering what their superiors called an "exemplary performance" escorting the Aquino cortege.

The three other members of the honor guard were Private First Class Antonio Cadiante, Airman 2nd Class Gener Laguindam and Petty Officer 3 Edgardo Rodriguez.

Asked whether the AFP would also apply for a Guinness listing on behalf of Cadiante and company, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr. said: "It's not for us to do. It would be self-serving."

"But if a third party would do that, we will not prevent them," Brawner told the Inquirer. ■

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