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SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS SURVEY

Satisfaction rating of gov't exes unchanged

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MANILA—The satisfaction ratings of top government officials and institutions basically remained unchanged in the first quarter this year compared to the previous quarter, according to the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The officials include Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, House Speaker Prospero Nograles and Chief Justice Reynato Puno.

The SWS First Quarter 2009 survey was conducted from Feb. 20-23 this year. The results were released last April 6.

The survey found 60 percent satisfied and 24 percent dissatisfied with the performance of De Castro, giving him a "good" net satisfaction rating of +36 (percent satisfied minus percent dissatisfied). This was similar to his "good" +39 rating in December 2008.

"His net performance rating has been +30 and above since June 2006," the polling outfit said in a media release.

Enrile's net satisfaction rating remained "neutral" at +8 (41 percent satisfied, 34 percent dissatisfied) from +5 in the previous



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile



House Speaker Prospero Nograles

"moderate" rating of +26 in December.

Public satisfaction with Nograles basically remained unchanged, from 22 percent satisfied in December to 23 percent satisfied in February. However, those dissatisfied with his performance rose from 39 percent to 45 percent this quarter, resulting in his net "poor" rating worsening from -17 in December to -22.

Nograles' current rating is the worst rating to date for speakers of the House of Representatives since 1990.

Puno's rating remained "neutral" at +3 (38 percent satisfied, 35 percent dissatisfied) from -4 in December. SWS said Puno's rating had been consistently neutral in its nine consecutive surveys.

Among the government institutions, the Senate received a "moderate" net satisfaction rating of +23 (50 percent satisfied, 27 dissatisfied), similar to its

Some 35 percent were satisfied and 34 percent dissatisfied with the performance of the House of Representatives, a neutral net +2, correctly rounded, down seven points from its neutral +9 rating in the previous quarter.

The Supreme Court had a net satisfaction rating of a neutral +4 (39 percent satisfied, 35 dissatisfied), four points down from last quarter's neutral +8.

The survey found 31 percent satisfied and 39 percent dissatisfied with the Cabinet as a whole, a neutral -7, down by six points from its neutral -1 rating in the previous quarter.

The survey used face to face interviews of 1,200 adults in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percent. (*Inquirer.net*)

Nograles: Popularity not a job requirement

MANILA—A House Speaker need not be popular to do his job, according to Speaker Prospero Nograles, who shrugged off the latest survey results showing him with the lowest satisfaction rating among top government officials.

Based on the First Quarter 2009 survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS), Nograles received a net satisfaction rating of -22. Of the total respondents, 45 percent were dissatisfied with his performance, while only 23 percent were satisfied.

"I am sorry but the position I hold as speaker is not based on my popularity or based on survey satisfaction," Nograles said in a text message. The SWS said Nograles received the worst rating to date for speakers of the House of Representatives since 1990.

According to Nograles, a speaker is not required to be well-loved. His job also entails making unpopular choices that he nevertheless thinks are good for the country.

"There are many instances that I need to take unpopular decisions and that's part of my job. I have to bite the bullet if I believe it's in the best interest of our people even if it's unpopular," he said.

Nograles, who represents Davao City and is also president of the ruling party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, has been Speaker for a year.

He replaced Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia who was ousted after he had a falling out with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo over his son's allegations of corruption in the scuttled \$329-million National Broadband Network deal.

Nograles is currently spearheading moves to amend the Constitution in the House, particularly the Charter's economic provisions. His resolution is scheduled for plenary debate when session resumes next week. (*Inquirer.net*)



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