

DISTRUST IN GOV'T HITS 3-YEAR HIGH; PBBM, SARA RATINGS DOWN



BETTER TIMES. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., then Speaker Martin Romualdez and Vice President Sara Duterte during happier times.

Majority of Filipinos give Marcos failing marks on easing inflation, battling corruption

By Beting Laygo Dolor, Editor

MANILA – The majority of Filipinos are dissatisfied with the Marcos regime's handling of the economy as well as its failure to address the problem of massive graft and corruption in government.

So says the latest Pulse Asia survey, the results of which were released this week.

Of the 1,200 adult Filipinos surveyed late last month, 69 percent expressed dissatisfaction with the government's fight against graft and corruption, while 64 percent said it was similarly mishandling inflation.

Tens of thousands of Filipinos have recently been venting their pent up anger at the Marcos administration's apparent inability to take more effective responses on the twin issues of inflation and corruption.

From students walking out of classes to workers taking to the streets to church leaders speaking out against the serious shortcomings of

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Coup rumors persist, Marcos 'on solid ground'

By ALFRED GABOT, Editor in Chief

MANILA - Distrust in government has surged to its highest level in three years while a decisive majority of Filipinos showed support for a proposed snap election for a change of the country's political leadership.

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ICC disqualifies prosecutor Khan in Duterte case

THE HAGUE/MANILA — International Criminal Court (ICC) appeals judges have disqualified chief prosecutor Karim Khan from the case against former President Rodrigo Duterte due to a possible conflict of interest.

There was no immediate comment from the Duterte camp and other parties on the ruling.

Earlier, the ICC rejected petition for interim release of Duterte despite his old age and health condition.

The ruling is yet another major blow to Khan,

who stepped aside in May amid an ongoing UN inquiry into his alleged sexual misconduct. He has now also been barred from taking part in the Duterte prosecution, the only major active case pending at the court, which is already reeling under US-imposed sanctions.

In August, Duterte's defense sought to disqualify Khan, arguing that his involvement in communications to the court from victims of Duterte's war on drugs was a conflict of interest.

The defense ►Page 7

Romualdez attends ICI probe, denies getting cash-filled suitcases

MANILA -- Former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez has appeared with his sworn affidavit before the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) and is scheduled to appear again to face questions on his role to budget insertions and flood control projects scandal.

ICI Executive Director Atty. Brian Hosaka confirmed that Romualdez was asked during his appearance about the allegations of a witness during the Senate Blue ►Page 7

UPSIDE

by Cherie M. Querol Moreno

ALLICE tackles domestic abuse at 2 City Council meetings

Part 1



ALLICE 2025 President Jennifer Jimenez Wong received Proclamation of DVAM before presenting on IPV Effects on Children at Colma Town Council meeting. (Photo by LYDIA POMPOSO)

COLMA, California - Two neighboring municipalities boasting strong Filipino American leadership commemorated two occasions significant to FilAms at their upcoming council meetings.

October is observed worldwide as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, drawing attention to an often unseen but pervasive problem besetting couples and families of every background.

In this country October is designated as Filipino American History Month, spotlighting the ►Page 10

Crime is down in San Francisco - Governor Newsom P6

Earthquakes normal occurrence in PHL – DOST chief P6



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What are the rights of immigrants against ICE in hospitals?

By Atty. Lozano

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Daniel Padilla wins acting award, linked to Karla

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Centeno crowned Women's 10-Ball World Champion

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COLUMNISTS

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Proposition 50 makes sense for California

Its critics dismiss Proposition 50 as little more than a political stunt to redistrict California to favor the Democrats.

This is an oversimplification, as the Golden State is already a predominantly blue state, and has been for decades.

The initiative, led by Governor Gavin Newsom, makes perfect sense at this time.

Yes, there are other states that have turned to redistricting recently, such as Texas and Florida, both longtime red states. Few questioned their need to resort to the action.

Why then should California be singled out for doing the exact same thing?

In the end, it is the registered voters of the state who will decide if Proposition 50 is good for them or not.

We at Philippine News Today see the wisdom of approving the measure because of one undeniable fact. The move is based on the latest available US Census figures. Maps are redrawn based on hard data, not political expediency.

Unfortunately, the other party would have Californians believe that Newsom's action is intended to counter the steps taken by the other states, and that the fight is really about which party will control the House of Representatives after next year's mid-term elections.

If the state is to be faulted for anything, it would have to be the timing.

Usually, redistricting is done every 10 years unless there is a court order to do so at an earlier time. But the Texas legislature recently passed a bill to adopt new maps for the 2026 elections without benefit of a court order.

There was no valid legal challenge to this, which can be interpreted to mean that California's plan also stands on solid ground.

California's 52 congressional districts were based on 2020 US Census figures and have been in use since the 2022 congressional polls.

Early voting on the measure started this week, and various pollsters have issued conflicting results on the possible outcome, mostly favorable to the electorate approving Proposition 50.

It may be approved by a small margin, or by an overwhelming vote.

It should be noted that Proposition 50 only authorizes temporary changes to California's congressional district maps, which critics point to as proof that it is nothing but a political maneuver.

Granted for the sake of argument that this is indeed the case, what then can be said of the actions of the red states that started the course of action in the first place?

In the end, it is the electorate of California who in their infinite wisdom will decide whether Proposition 50 will redound to their benefit, or have the opposite effect.

In our view, Proposition 50 – also known as the Election Rigging Response Act – will do more good than harm because it addresses current political realities.

One side claims, rightly or wrongly, that passing the measure will be a step backward for a state that has always prided itself in always holding fair and free elections.

It is precisely for this reason that the decision should be left solely on qualified, registered California voters. It is their future that's at stake, and we have no qualms in strongly recommending that Proposition 50 be passed by the voters of our beloved state.

ALLICE tackles... (From page 1)

contributions of Filipino Americans to the building of this diverse nation.

Fittingly the town of Colma on Oct. 8 and the City of Daly City on Oct. 13 will topped the agendas of their Council meetings with proclamations recognizing the importance of understanding domestic violence followed by a presentation from ALLICE, a Filipino American organization dedicated to abuse prevention through education.

The twin events are consequential.

In 2023 alone five fatalities in San Mateo County were attributed to intimate partner violence including at least one identified as a Filipina American, 27-year-old Frances Lucero, who Daly police said was shot to death by her ex-partner at her parents' residence in Daly City.

The incidents prompted the formation of a Domestic Violence Task Force headed by County Supervisor Noelia Corzo. ALLICE attended the initial task force meeting and vigils coordinated by the Lucero family.

"On behalf of our Kumares and Kumpares, our partners and the community we serve, we are honored to receive the proclamation from our partner municipalities for their leadership in keeping residents educated about the issue and resources for abuse survivors and their loved ones," ALLICE 2025 President Jennifer Jimenez Wong, a licensed marriage and family therapist, told INQUIRER.NETUSA.

ALLICE is the acronym for Alliance for Community Empowerment. Formed in 2003, the all-volunteer nonprofit conducts community outreach free and open to the public in partnership with aligned individuals and organizations. While initiated by Filipino Americans, its members include Americans of various other descent, including an ex-Coast Guard sailor who is Latinx and a police department commander who is Chinese American.

COMMITMENT

At the team's July meeting where he swore in this year's ALLICE officers, Colma Mayor Ken Gonzalez invited the organization to highlight DVAM by receiving the proclamation and addressing the subject come October. Gonzalez imparted his motivation:

"The work of ALLICE was important to Rae, who cared deeply about the safety of residents in and out of the home," Gonzalez remembered his late wife Raquel "Rae" Gonzalez, who passed away while Colma Council member in 2022. Combating domestic violence as her successor on the council was his way of honoring her legacy, he stressed.

Colma's long tradition of supporting domestic violence prevention efforts escalated with the participation of Joanne del Rosario, Colma's first FilAm woman council member. She spoke at one of the earliest ALLICE events and joined the organization shortly after.

In a subsequent event del Rosario gave testimony of her experience as a survivor of intimate partner abuse in a previous relationship, a move applauded both by her political colleagues and family advocates. Her reason for the disclosure was to show that abuse can happen regardless of educational, immigration (Continue on page 20)

Who wants to have a ConCon to amend Constitution to define 'forthwith' and other ambiguities?

On August 11, 2025, House Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo City in a privilege speech called for a constitutional convention to address what he termed "enduring ambiguities" in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. More specifically he wanted to have a definition of the word "forthwith" in ARTICLE XI, Accountability of Public Officers, Section (4) which reads: In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the Members of the House, the same shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed.

The Oxford Dictionary defines "forthwith" as "immediately; without delay". But the definitions are equally ambiguous". The ambiguity can only be removed by specifying the number of days from the receipt of the articles of impeachment by the Senate when the trial shall proceed.

Puno contended that a Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) is the "most prudent, transparent, and participatory mechanism" to correct these textual deficiencies, reconcile contradictions, remove ambiguities.

If that is his goal, the Preamble alone has a lot of ambiguities. The Preamble reads: "We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution."

Consider the following: "just and humane society," "our ideals and aspirations," "common good," "rule of law," "regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace". Are they going to define all of these?

Why all of a sudden did Rep. Puno call for a Constitutional Convention? Because the Senate did not "forthwith" try the Articles of Impeachment that was transmitted by the House Secretary to the Senate at 4:47 p.m. on February 5, 2025. Senate President Francis Escudero said that the Senate was adjourning that day for the congressional recess.

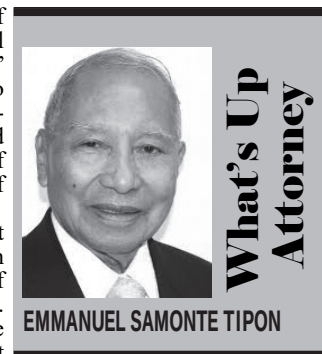
REP. SANDRO MARCOS TORPEDOES PROPOSAL

Newly installed House Majority Leader Ilocos Norte 1st district Rep. Sandro Marcos torpedoed the proposal saying that he believes that it is "the 'wrong time' to talk about the proposed creation of a constitutional convention (Concon). "Nasa budget pa lang tayo (We are still (Continue on page 20)



CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO

Upside



EMMANUEL SAMONTE TIPON

What's Up Attorney

Health & Wealth (From Page 11)

forts along with simple living is linked to better physical and mental health.

FORMULA FOR OPTIMUM HEALTH
In addition to the 10 Habits for Good Health and Longevity, I would like to share to our readers the proven FORMULA FOR OPTIMUM HEALTH by Dr. Frederic Templeman, M.D. board certified both in the United States and Canada, who practices conventional medicine and natural healing.

EXERCISE + NUTRITION + SUPPLEMENTATION = OPTIMUM HEALTH

Following the advice and proven formula for optimum health by Dr. Frederic Templeman, M.D.. I’ve been taking the natural health supplement Synergy Benefits-10 for almost three years now. As a result, my blood sugar level ranges from 97 to 110 and my blood pressure ranges from 101/58 to 118/72. During my latest annual physical examination at Kaiser Permanente in Daly City, California, my personal physician Dr. Fei Yang Liang, M.D. was surprised and instructed me to stop taking the prescribed medicine LOZARTAN 12.5 (50 mg.) HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE 12.5 (mg tablet) for high blood pressure. This was the exciting news from my latest annual physical examination.

I personally recommend that you try this Synergy Benefits -10 natural health supplement for prevention and maintenance of good health and longevity. For your supply of this Synergy Benefits -10 natural health supplement at a discounted price, just write or contact: FITNESS FOR HUMANITY, 730 Madrid Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 Tel. (650)438-3531 or (415) 584-7095 or email:artmadlaing@hotmail.com

For more details about the 10 Habits for Good Health and Longevity by Jane Goodall and my late mother Elena Sampayan Gabot Madlaing and more information about the Synergy Benefits-10 natural health supplement, make sure to order and read your autographed copy of the Amazon best-selling book “LONGEVITY TIPS” subtitled “Secrets You Can Discover and Do for Good Health and Longevity “at a discounted price (50% discount from the regular Amazon price). For your autographed copy, just write or contact: ART G. MADLAING, 701- 8th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118 Tel (650) 438-3531 or (415) 584-7095 or email: artmadlaing@hotmail.com
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As I See It (From Page 11)

forward valuable perspectives from Executive Producer Lisa Lew, President of P&L Media, and filmmakers Mark LaGrimas and Marie Jamora.

Following the forum, attendees were invited to a reception with dishes from Los Angeles-based restaurants, featuring Filipino and Japanese cuisine. A curated menu for the reception was prepared by Chef Don Tahara, Executive Chef & Owner of Far Bar of Little Tokyo, and Chef Natalia Moran, Executive Chef & Owner of Manila Inasal in Silver Lake.

As far as partnership with Asia, Assemblymember Caloza said: “California ranks among the world’s economic powerhouses, and the partnerships with Asia are essential in sustaining that leadership.”

“In fact,” Assemblymember Caloza added, “in 2025, nearly 814,000 jobs in California were accounted for by foreign-owned businesses, paying an estimate of \$89 billion in wages to Californians. A significant chunk of this investment comes from Asia, underscoring the importance of strengthening these partnerships not only to advance California’s position in global trade and investment, but also boost our local economy and what it means for jobs and opportunities for our small businesses.”

We hope that the forum will generate more investments for the state and more jobs for the people of California.

(Elpidio R. Estioko was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. He just published his book Unlocking the chain of Poverty: In Pursuit of the American Dream which is now available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Xlibris Publishing. For feedbacks, comments email author at estio-koelpidio@gmail.com).



Upside... (From Page 10)



Colma Town Council (back row) honor ALLICE Kumares & Kumpares (front row) and special guests Liezel Lucero, mother of Frances Lucero who lost her life in domestic violence and Celeste Mercado of CORA (front row 7th and 8th from left). MZMORENO photo

or socio-economic status, she says. More importantly she set herself as an example of how to overcome the experience with the help of appropriate resources.

On del Rosario’s proposal, Colma last year engaged the team to facilitate an intimate partner violence workshop for town staff attended by the elected and administrative leadership to department support staff as well as first responders.

With their elected member’s representation, Kumares and Kumpares, as ALLICE members call themselves, often hold their meetings at the town hall of the place they consider their “second home.”

DVAM BEGINNINGS
Say it: Dee-Vahm. That’s how advocates refer to the monthlong events and activities to broaden understanding of domestic or intimate partner violence, the pattern of behavior where one intentionally exerts

power and control in various forms to dominate the other party in an intimate relationship.

The movement is rooted in the women’s rights movement, symbolized by the purple, white and gold of suffrage efforts in the 1900s, to the National Women’s Party’s choice of purple for loyalty, to various shades of the same color ubiquitous during the equal rights marches in the late 1970s.

“Battered women chose purple as an evolution of the lavender from decades past,” said former NCADV board president Rose M. Garrity. “It’s seen as a color of royalty and is already associated with females anyway.” – Adapted from original reprinted with permission from INQUIRERUSA.COM
(To be continued)

What’s up Atty (From Page 11)

with the budget), let’s not bring that up. It’s the wrong time and the wrong place,” Rep. Marcos said. Manila Bulletin, August 14, 2025.

WHY NOT SPEND THE MONEY FOR A CONCON TO HELP THE POOR, ESPECIALLY THE TYPHOON VICTIMS

If a Constitutional Convention is called, when will be the election for its members take place. What are the qualifications for membership? Can the incumbent members of Congress run for membership? Will they forfeit their seats in Congress if they run? If they do not run themselves, will their relatives run?

How many millions of pesos will be budgeted for the Constitutional Convention. The Filipino people have been suffering from a succession of typhoons that have hit the Philippines, particularly in Luzon. Why not spend the money to assist them in their recovery?

OPENING A CAN OF WORMS
When or if a Concon is held, do you think it will limit itself to defining ambiguous words and phrases like “forthwith”? Of course not. It will be like opening the proverbial can of worms. It will be open season for changing any provision or adding various provisions. You can expect a proposal to allow the current president Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to run for reelection. He is the most competent. He will win hands down. I will campaign for him.

WHO IS THE FRONT RUNNER FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 2028?

If there is no Concon, or if the new Constitution that the Concon adopts will not be changing the term of the president, or if the new constitution is not ratified by the people, who will run in the May 2028 presidential election and who is the front runner?

These are the possible top contenders, Vice President Sara Duterte, Former Vice President Leni Robredo, Sen. Bong Go, Sen. Raffy Tulfo, Senate President Francis Escudero, and Speaker Martin Romualdez. According to a 2028 Presidential Survey called Tangere Survey which was done on May 20-21, 2025, Sara is slightly ahead of Leni. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Ga-Ts9-k>. filipinotalkss@gmail.com.

Diliman Way (From Page 11)

So he is no better than PBB Marcos whom he accused of using the prohibited drug – cocaine. As they say, it takes one to know one.

Duterte’s place: In the meanwhile, the proper place of Rodrigo Duterte is in the Hague. The country is safer if he remains there as he will not be able to effectively create trouble in the country. For humanitarian reasons, it is to his best interest if he stays in Hague as the facilities of the Hague hospitals could be better than the hospitals in Davao City. Considering his publicly proclaimed desire for women, there maybe more attracted nurses and doctors there suited to his taste.

The problem of Duterte’s confinement could have been avoided were it not for the incompetence of PBB Marcos and his Secretary of Justice. If Marcos and Remulla were competent, Duterte would have been in jail twelve feet underground in the Philippines or in Hell. Why twelve feet, not the normal six feet? Because with the traditional six feet, Duterte maybe able to escape or be resurrected with the help of the self-appointed son of god – Pastor Apollo Quiboloy.

Sara, assuming that she is not impeached and convicted, has the Duterte bloc, which includes 7 senators. She is expected to win in Mindanao. She and Leni will fight it out in the Visayan Islands.

Leni has the following advantages. She has served as Vice President. She has experience running for President. She is generally clean with no political baggage. She will win the Bicol region, especially if Escudero will not run. She will split the Visayan Islands with Sara. Luzon is no man’s land.

The result of the May 9, 2022 elections showed Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. obtained 31,124,192 votes equivalent to 58.92%, while Leni Robredo obtained 14,795,894 votes equivalent to 28.01%. Leni will start with this base.

On the other hand, Sara Duterte won as vice president as the running mate of Marcos, Jr. with 31,426,635 votes. However, not all these people will vote for her. Millions were brought by Marcos. If Bong Go persists in running, he will drain millions of Duterte voters.

Who will be their vice-presidential running mate. For Leni, in all likelihood it will be Francis Pangilinan again who got 9,222,084 votes when he ran under the Liberal Party. For Sara, in all likelihood it will be Imee Marcos who is a member of the Nacionalista Party.

However, this survey does not appear to include other presidential candidates, such as the First Lady, Mrs. Marie Louise “Liza” Cacho Araneta Marcos. If Liza runs, she will be a very formidable candidate. To begin with, she will win the Ilocano votes. She will win in Iloilo and Negros Occidental where her father was born and grew up. She will win in Leyte and Samar because Speaker Martin Romualdez will no longer run. She will win in Manila where she was born.

Full disclosure: I appointed Mrs. Liza Marcos as a professor of law when I was the Dean of the College of Law of Northwestern University in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte. Her husband, Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., was the Governor of Ilocos Norte. She is a very competent teacher. She had outlines of the courses she taught and was very articulate. She was well-liked by everybody, especially her fellow teachers and students. I will be campaigning for her.

Crime is down... (From page 16)

“Businesses, residents, and tourists on the ground all agree it feels like a new day in San Francisco,” said San Francisco Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Rodney Fong. “The leadership of Governor Newsom and Mayor Lurie has created a more vibrant and confident business ecosystem, supported by strong community policing and safer street conditions. Simply put, the numbers speak for themselves.”

“Ensuring public safety is an essential job of government. San Francisco has risen to the challenge and has become amongst the safest cities in the nation,” said Advance SF President Wade Rose. “Homicides are the lowest they’ve been in 70 years, car break-ins are at the lowest they’ve been in 22 years, police and sheriff ranks are increasing, overdose deaths are decreasing, and overall reported crime is down nearly 30%. Governor Newsom’s and Mayor Lurie’s efforts have been a key part of this success.”

“Crime statistics in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area show continuous, dramatic improvement. Visitors routinely express pleasant surprise as to how their positive experience doesn’t match up with the often negative newsfeed,” said Bay Area Council President and CEO Jim Wunderman. “Thanks to these continued investments from Governor Newsom, we increasingly hear local residents view the city and region as being on the right track. There is more work to do but these trends are extremely encouraging.”