



MEDIA RELEASE
(November 30, 2005)

FROM: Dr. Ana Maria L. Tabunda
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RE: Pulse Asia's October 2005 Nationwide Survey
Holiday Season, Hopelessness and Intention to Migrate

Pulse Asia is pleased to share with you some findings from the October 2005 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey on the ***Holiday Season, Hopelessness and Intention to Migrate***. In the interest of disseminating information relating to Filipino perceptions, opinions, sentiments, and attitudes relating to current developments here and abroad, we request you to assist us in helping inform the public.

Based on a multistage probability sample of 1,200 representative adults 18 years old and above, Pulse Asia's nationwide survey has a $\pm 3\%$ error margin at the 95% 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 $\pm 6\%$ error margin, also at 95% confidence level. **Face-to-face** field interviews for this project were conducted from October 15-27, 2005. (Those interested in further technical details concerning the surveys' questionnaires and sampling design may request Pulse Asia in writing for fuller details, including copies of the pre-tested questions actually used.)

Topping the headlines during the survey period were the Arroyo administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy, specifically in connection with the use of a water cannon to disperse a rally attended by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Jamby Madrigal, bishops and priests; E.O. 464 which requires executive officials to secure presidential permission before appearing in any investigation by the Senate or the House of Representatives; the Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the EVAT law; National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' attendance at a Senate hearing on the Venable contract that earned him a Senate contempt charge and his subsequent inability to continue testifying as he was detained in a hospital for health reasons; and several increases in pump prices of gasoline and diesel products.

The surveys sampling design and questionnaire are the full responsibility of Pulse Asia's pool of academic experts and no religious, political, economic or any other form of partisanship has been allowed to influence the survey design, the findings generated by the actual surveys or the subsequent analyses of survey findings.

Pulse Asia undertakes *Ulat ng Bayan* surveys on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort.

**Pulse Asia's October 2005 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:
Media Release on the Holiday Season, Hopelessness and Intention to Migrate
30 November 2005**

Only a minority of Filipinos (16%) says this coming Christmas season will be more prosperous than last year for their family

Only about two in ten Filipinos (16%) say the coming holiday season will be more prosperous for their family compared to last year. Across the country's geographic areas and socio-economic classes, the percentage of those expressing this sentiment is generally consistent with the overall figure (14% to 19%). On the other hand, nearly the same percentage of Filipinos says either that this Christmas season will be the same as last year (40%) or that it will be poorer than last year (43%) for their family. The percentage of those expressing either of these sentiments is nearly the same across most of the country's geographic areas and socio-economic classes. The only exceptions are in Mindanao and in the poorest Class E where the predominant sentiment is that this coming holiday season will be poorer than last year for their family – a sentiment expressed by 51% of Mindanaoans and a big plurality of those in Class E (45%). (See *Table 1*)

**TABLE 1
HOLIDAY SEASON**
October 15 - 27, 2005 / Philippines
(Column Percent / Allow for Multiple Response)

INTRO: Now, let's talk about the coming Christmas and New Year.										
HOLIDAY SEASON	RP	LOCATION				LOCALITY		CLASS		
		NCR	LUZ	VIS	MIN	Urban	Rural	ABC	D	E
For your family, the coming Christmas will be... (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)										
More prosperous than last year	16	14	16	19	14	15	16	18	16	16
The same as last year	40	44	45	39	32	41	40	43	41	38
Poorer than last year	43	42	40	42	51	44	42	39	43	45
Will you face the coming year... (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)										
WITH Hope	70	68	78	76	51	70	69	79	67	72
WITH Apprehension	20	17	18	15	30	18	22	12	22	18
WITHOUT Hope and WITHOUT Apprehension	10	15	5	9	18	12	8	9	11	10

Pag-usapan naman po natin ang darating na Pasko at Bagong Taon.

Q195. Sa inyong pamilya, ang darating na pasko ay magiging...

Q196. Ang darating bang taon ay inyong haharapin ng may pag-asa, may kaba, o walang pag-asa at walang kaba?

Nonetheless, a big majority of Filipinos (70%) are looking forward to 2006 with hope

It may be recalled that between July and October 2005, the number of Filipinos who say that they expect the quality of life in the next 12 months to be worse increases by 9 percentage points, whether one asks the respondents to consider the prospective quality of life of their own family or that of most Filipinos' families nationwide. (*See Tables 2 and 3*) In addition, the respondents' sense of hopelessness regarding the Philippines goes up by 12 percentage points during the same time period. Despite these findings and another one showing that only a small minority of Filipinos (16%) believe this coming Christmas will be more prosperous for their family relative to last year, seven in ten Filipinos (70%) nevertheless persist in saying that they will face 2006 with hope. It would seem that the prospect of Christmas encourages majority of the people to summon up the courage to hope against their own expectations.

On the other hand, 20% of Filipinos view the coming year with apprehension. This sentiment is most pronounced among those in Mindanao (30%). Another 10% of Filipinos say they will face 2006 with neither hope nor apprehension – a sentiment that is also most pronounced in Mindanao (18%). The sense of hope as well as apprehension is nearly the same in the country's urban and rural areas. (*See Table 1*)

Table 2
EXPECTED CHANGE IN PERSONAL QUALITY OF LIFE BY NEXT YEAR
June to October 2005 / Philippines
(Row Percent)

Demographic variables	Optimist (Better than now)			Same as now			Pessimist (Worse than now)		
	Jun <u>05</u>	Jul <u>05</u>	Oct <u>05</u>	Jun <u>05</u>	Jul <u>05</u>	Oct <u>05</u>	Jun <u>05</u>	Jul <u>05</u>	Oct <u>05</u>
Total Philippines	19	19	18	29	29	21	50	49	58
NCR	19	19	24	28	33	21	52	46	53
Balance Luzon	23	22	22	31	30	23	44	45	53
Visayas	17	18	13	34	26	26	48	48	59
Mindanao	16	11	10	22	26	15	61	59	69
Class ABC	19	22	24	29	31	20	50	44	56
TOTAL D	22	19	19	28	28	21	49	47	59
D1 (owns res'l lot)	19	19	20	31	29	21	49	46	58
D2 (does not own res'l lot)	25	20	17	25	25	21	49	49	61
E	15	16	14	31	29	22	52	52	57

Table 3
EXPECTED CHANGE IN NATIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE BY NEXT YEAR
 June to October 2005 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

Demographic variables	Optimist (Better than now)			Same as now			Pessimist (Worse than now)		
	Jun 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Jun 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Jun 05	Jul 05	Oct 05
Total Philippines	9	10	7	22	23	18	66	65	74
NCR	10	7	10	20	22	26	69	69	63
Balance Luzon	11	15	9	26	30	19	61	53	70
Visayas	6	8	4	24	16	18	68	71	78
Mindanao	8	3	3	17	16	10	74	80	85
Class ABC	9	11	16	23	22	16	67	65	68
TOTAL D	10	10	6	21	21	16	68	66	77
D1 (owns res'l lot)	11	9	7	20	23	14	68	66	79
D2 (does not own res'l lot)	10	12	6	22	18	20	67	66	74
E	7	9	5	26	26	21	63	64	70

Increasing desire to migrate among Filipinos

Although majority of Filipinos (54%) are still hopeful about the country, the contrary sense is more pronounced in October 2005 than in the previous quarter with 23% of Filipinos now saying the Philippine is a hopeless case – up by 12 percentage points from the July 2005 figure. Meanwhile, indecision on the matter is practically unchanged (+3 percentage points) and the percentage of those who disagree that the Philippines is hopeless drops by 15 percentage points between July and October 2005. (See Table 4)

Intention to migrate is also significantly higher in October 2005 than in July 2005 (33% versus 26%) while indecision on the matter of migrating to another country is also higher this quarter than in July 2005 (30% versus 21%). These increases in the intention to migrate as well as in the vacillation regarding migration reflect a big reduction in the proportion of those who will not migrate even if it were possible for them to do so. From a majority of 52% in July 2005, those adamant about staying in the Philippines have declined to 37%, a remarkable reduction by 16 percentage points or 7.5 million adults. (See Table 5)

Intention to migrate is higher among the better-qualified sectors and among the youth - urbanites (40%), class ABC (49%), the 18 to 24 year-olds (45%) and those with some college preparation or completed college (46% and 49%, respectively). (See Table 5)

The October 2005 levels for hopelessness (23%) and intention to migrate (33%) are the highest figures recorded for the two series since these were started in 2002. (See Tables 4 and 5)

Further analyses indicate an association between the perception that the country is hopeless and intention to migrate. Majority (56%) of those who perceive the country is hopeless indicate a desire to migrate. Conversely, majority (54%) of those who perceive the country as hopeless do not desire to migrate. (See Table 6)

TABLE 4
AGREEMENT / DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENT:
"This country is hopeless."
 March to October 2005 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

Demographic variable	Agree			Change*	Undecided			Change*	Disagree			Change*
	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05
Total Philippines	19	11	23	+12	21	20	23	+ 3	60	69	54	- 15
NCR	22	17	27	+10	24	17	23	+ 6	54	67	50	- 17
Balance Luzon	19	9	26	+17	25	23	22	- 1	56	68	51	- 17
Visayas	16	12	16	+ 4	13	16	19	+ 3	72	71	63	- 8
Mindanao	18	8	22	+14	21	21	27	+ 6	60	70	51	- 19
Total Urban	21	14	23	+ 9	24	17	26	+ 9	55	69	51	- 18
Total Rural	16	7	24	+17	19	24	20	- 4	65	69	56	- 13
Class ABC	15	12	21	+ 9	17	13	25	+12	69	74	54	- 20
TOTAL D	18	12	23	+11	21	17	24	+ 7	61	71	53	- 18
D1 (owns res'l lot)	17	10	25	+15	24	14	24	+10	59	75	52	- 23
D2 (does not own res'l lot)	19	15	20	+ 5	17	21	26	+ 5	63	63	54	- 9
E	21	7	25	+18	23	27	20	- 7	55	65	55	- 10
18-24 years old	15	14	26	+12	21	25	26	+ 1	64	62	48	- 14
25-34	18	8	24	+16	25	23	20	- 3	57	68	56	- 12
35-44	22	10	22	+12	22	19	25	+ 6	55	70	53	- 17
45-54	18	12	19	+ 7	20	17	27	+10	62	71	54	- 17
55-64	14	5	25	+20	17	23	14	- 9	69	72	62	- 10
65 & up	25	18	29	+11	16	9	18	+ 9	57	73	53	- 20

Notes: (1) *Change = Figures of October 2005 minus Figures of July 2005.

(2) % Agree = % Very Much Agree plus % Agree; % Disagree = % Disagree plus % Very Much Disagree

TABLE 5
AGREEMENT / DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENT:
"If it were only possible, I would migrate to another country and live there."
 March to October 2005 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

Demographic variable	Agree			Change*	Undecided			Change*	Disagree			Change*
	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05	Mar 05	Jul 05	Oct 05	Oct05 - Jul05
Total Philippines	26	26	33	+ 7	24	21	30	+ 9	50	52	37	- 15
NCR	39	39	39	0	27	15	33	+18	34	46	28	- 18
Balance Luzon	27	26	35	+ 9	26	22	30	+ 8	47	52	36	- 16
Visayas	21	24	24	0	19	19	24	+ 5	61	56	53	- 3
Mindanao	23	20	36	+16	22	25	33	+ 8	55	55	32	- 23
Total Urban	34	33	40	+ 7	26	19	30	+11	39	48	30	- 18
Total Rural	19	19	26	+ 7	21	23	29	+ 6	60	57	44	- 13
Class ABC	35	43	49	+ 6	16	16	29	+13	47	42	22	- 20
TOTAL D	26	27	32	+ 5	24	19	32	+13	51	53	36	- 17
D1 (owns res'l lot)	28	25	33	+ 8	22	19	28	+ 9	50	56	39	- 17
D2 (does not own res'l lot)	22	32	31	- 1	26	18	38	+20	52	49	31	- 18
E	26	21	31	+10	26	26	26	0	48	53	43	- 10
18-24 years old	30	33	45	+12	19	25	27	+ 2	52	42	28	- 14
25-34	27	31	33	+ 2	31	27	34	+ 7	42	42	33	- 9
35-44	29	35	33	- 2	26	15	31	+16	45	50	37	- 13
45-54	27	14	26	+12	18	21	33	+12	55	65	41	- 24
55-64	23	15	33	+18	21	16	16	0	56	67	51	- 16
65 & up	19	19	23	+ 4	19	19	28	+ 9	62	62	49	- 13

Notes: (1) *Change = Figures of October 2005 minus Figures of July 2005.

(2) % Agree = % Very Much Agree plus % Agree; % Disagree = % Disagree plus % Very Much Disagree

Table 6
INTENTION TO MIGRATE by HOPELESSNESS
 October 15 - 27, 2005 / Philippines
 (Row Percent)

	<i>"If it were only possible, I would migrate to another country and live there."</i>		
	Agree (33%)	Undecided (30%)	Disagree (37%)
<i>"This country is hopeless."</i>			
Agree (23%)	56	25	19
Undecided (23%)	30	54	16
Disagree (54%)	25	21	54

Notes: (1) % Agree = % Very Much Agree plus % Agree; % Disagree = % Disagree plus % Very Much Disagree.

(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off or to Don't Know and Refuse responses.

APPENDIX: QUESTIONNAIRE**BB. HOLIDAY SEASON**

Pag-usapan naman po natin ang darating na Pasko at Bagong Taon. *(Now, let's talk about the coming Christmas and New Year.)*

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 195. | Sa inyong pamilya, ang darating na pasko ay magiging...
<i>(For your family, the coming Christmas will be...)</i>
SHOWCARD | HIGIT NA MASAGANA KAYSA NAKARAANG TAON....1
<i>(More prosperous than last year)</i>
KATULAD NG NAKARAANG TAON.....2
<i>(The same as last year)</i>
HIGIT NA MAHIRAP KAYSA NAKARAANG TAON.....3
<i>(Poorer than last year)</i> |
| 196. | Ang darating bang taon ay inyong haharapin ng may pag-asa, may kaba, o walang pag-asa at walang kaba?
<i>(Will you face the coming year with hope, with apprehension, or without hope and without apprehension ...?)</i>
SHOWCARD | MAY PAG-ASA <i>(With hope)</i>1
WALANG PAG-ASA AT WALA RING KABA2
<i>(Without hope and without apprehension)</i>
MAY KABA <i>(With apprehension)</i>3 |

D. QUALITY OF LIFE TRENDS**(EXPECTED CHANGE IN PERSONAL QUALITY OF LIFE BY NEXT YEAR)**

17. Sa inyong palagay, ano ang magiging uri ng **inyong** pamumuhay sa darating na 12 buwan? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay... **[READ OUT]**
(In your opinion, what will be the quality of your life in the coming 12 months? Would it be ...)
- | | |
|--|---|
| MAS BUBUTI KAYSA NGAYON <i>(Better than now)</i> | 1 |
| MAGIGING KAPAREHO DIN SA NGAYON <i>(Same as now)</i> | 2 |
| MAS SASAMA KAYSA NGAYON <i>(Worse than now)</i> | 3 |

G. STATE OF THE NATION**(EXPECTED CHANGE IN NATIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE BY NEXT YEAR)**

21. Sa inyong opinyon, ano ang magiging uri ng pamumuhay ng **karamihan ng Pilipino** sa darating na 12 buwan? Masasabi ba ninyo na ito ay... **[READ OUT]**
(In your opinion, what will be the quality of life of most Filipinos in the coming 12 months? Would you say....)
- | | |
|--|---|
| MAS BUBUTI KAYSA NGAYON <i>(Better than now)</i> | 1 |
| MAGIGING KAPAREHO DIN SA NGAYON <i>(Same as now)</i> | 2 |
| MAS SASAMA KAYSA NGAYON <i>(Worse than now)</i> | 3 |

AA. MISCELLANEOUS (Agree-Disagree) PROBES

BABASAHIN NAMIN NGAYON SA INYO ANG ILANG MGA PANGUNGUSAP. MAAARI BANG SA BAWAT ISA SA MGA PANGUNGUSAP NA ITO AY PAKISABI LAMANG KUNG KAYO AY LUBOS NA SUMASANG-AYON, SUMASANG-AYON, HINDI MASABI NGAYON KUNG SUMASANG-AYON O HINDI SUMASANG-AYON, HINDI SUMASANG-AYON O LUBOS NA HINDI SUMASANG-AYON? *(We will now read some statements to you. To each of these statements, would you please say whether you VERY MUCH AGREE, AGREE, CANNOT SAY NOW WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE, DISAGREE OR VERY MUCH DISAGREE.)*

<u>(SHUFFLE CARDS – RATING BOARD 4)</u>		<u>VMA</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>CS</u> <u>A/D</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>VMD</u>	<u>NK</u>	<u>R</u>
192.	<u>HOPELESSNESS AND INTENTION TO MIGRATE</u> WALA NG PAG-ASA ANG BANSANG ITO <i>(This country is hopeless.)</i>	5	4	3	2	1	8	9
193.	KUNG MAAARI LANG AY MAGMA-MIGRATE AKO AT DOON NA SA IBANG BANSANG MANINIRAHAN. <i>(If it were only possible, I would migrate to another country and live there.)</i>	5	4	3	2	1	8	9