

MEDIA RELEASE

(March 20, 2012)

FROM: Prof. Ronald D. Holmes
President
Pulse Asia, Inc.

RE: Pulse Asia's March 2012 Nationwide Survey on the
Impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona

Pulse Asia is pleased to share with you some findings on the ***Impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona*** from the March 2012 *Ulat ng Bayan* national survey. We request you to assist us in informing the public by disseminating this information.

The survey fieldwork was conducted from **February 26 to March 9, 2012** using face-to-face interviews. The following developments preoccupied Filipinos immediately prior to and during the conduct of the interviews for this survey: (1) the ongoing impeachment trial of Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona¹; (2) the arraignment for electoral fraud of former President and incumbent Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; (3) the death and destruction caused by a 6.9 intensity earthquake in the Visayas on 06 February 2012; (4) the commemoration of the 26th anniversary of EDSA People Power I; (5) the controversies involving a few presidential appointees; (6) the death of Negros Occidental Representative Ignacio Arroyo and the fight over his remains; and (7) the increase in oil prices, fluctuating

¹ By the time the fieldwork for this survey was completed, the impeachment court was in recess after completing 26 trial days. The prosecution rested its case on 28 February 2012. The trial resumed on 12 March 2012.

power rates, declining headline inflation rate, and the record-breaking performance of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

As in our previous surveys, this nationwide survey is based on a sample of 1,200 representative adults 18 years old and above. It 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. Those interested in further technical details concerning the survey's questionnaire and sampling design may request Pulse Asia in writing for fuller details, including copies of the pre-tested questions actually used.

Pulse Asia's pool of academic fellows takes full responsibility for the design and conduct of the survey, as well as for analyses it makes based on the survey data. In keeping with our academic nature, no religious, political, economic, or partisan group influenced any of these processes. Pulse Asia undertakes *Ulat ng Bayan* surveys on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort.

For any clarification or questions, kindly contact Prof. Ronald D. Holmes, Pulse Asia President at 09189335497 or Dr. Ana Maria Tabunda, Pulse Asia Chief Research Fellow at 09189436816.

**Pulse Asia's March 2012 *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey:
Media Release on the Impeachment of
Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato C. Corona
20 March 2012**

Even as about eight in ten Filipinos (84%) report that they follow the ongoing impeachment trial of Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona, a small majority (56%) admits knowing little about the impeachment

Most Filipinos (84%) say they are following the impeachment trial of Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona – an act reported by overwhelming majorities in every geographic area (75% to 91%) and socio-economic class (76% to 90%). In particular, majorities say they are monitoring developments regarding the impeachment trial through television – 80% at the national level, 67% to 84% across geographic areas and 70% to 88% across socio-economic groupings. The rest of the population (16%) is not monitoring the impeachment trial, with lack of interest being most pronounced in the poorest Class E (24%) and the Visayas (25%). *(Please refer to Table 1.)*

**Table 1
SOURCE OF NEWS REGARDING THE IMPEACHMENT**

February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Are you following the developments regarding the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona? If yes, through which do you follow it? (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	NCR	BAL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
			LUZ					
YES	84	81	85	75	91	90	87	76
TELEVISION	80	80	83	67	84	88	84	70
News	77	74	81	64	82	83	80	69
Discussion	19	33	21	18	8	23	21	13
RADIO	12	7	10	18	11	6	11	13
News	11	5	10	17	11	5	11	13
Discussion	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	3
NEWSPAPER	4	9	4	5	0	6	4	3
News	4	9	4	5	0	6	4	3
Discussion	0.3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
INTERNET	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	0
News	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0
Discussion	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NO	16	19	15	25	9	10	13	24

Q154. Sinusubaybayan po ba ninyo ang impeachment trial ni Chief Justice Renato Corona? Kung OO, saan po ninyo ito sinusubaybayan?

However, when asked regarding the extent of their knowledge about the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona, 56% of Filipinos say they know only a little about the issue – an admission made by near to small majorities across geographic areas (48% to 62%) and socio-economic classes (50% to 58%). Additionally, 11% of Filipinos say they have almost no or no knowledge at all about the issue. In contrast, only 8% report knowing a great deal about the impeachment and 24% say they know enough about the issue. (Please refer to Table 2.)

Table 2
KNOWLEDGE ON THE
IMPEACHMENT CASE AGAINST CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA

February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Last December 12, 2011, there were 188 Congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona. The bases for the said impeachment complaint are betrayal of public trust, violation of the Constitution and graft and corruption. Chief Justice Corona denied these charges and said that there is no truth to these allegations. The case of Chief Justice Corona is currently being tried in the Senate.

How would you describe the amount of knowledge you have regarding this issue?

(Base: Total Interviews, 100%)

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BAL LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
GREAT DEAL - SUFFICIENT	33	42	30	23	40	46	35	25
A great deal of knowledge	8	10	6	7	13	14	10	5
Not a great deal, but a sufficient amount	24	32	24	16	27	32	25	20
LITTLE - NO KNOWLEDGE	67	58	70	77	60	54	65	75
A little knowledge	56	49	62	58	48	50	55	58
Almost none or no knowledge at all	11	8	8	19	12	4	9	17

NOONG DISYEMBRE 12, 2011, MAY 188 NA KONGRESISTA NA PUMIRMA SA IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT LABAN KAY SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA. ANG BASEHAN NG NASABING IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AY BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST, PAGLABAG SA KONSTITUSYON AT KATIWALIAN AT KORUPSYON. ITINANGGI NI CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA ANG MGA BINTANG AT SINABING WALANG KATOTOHANAN ANG MGA PARATANG. KASALUKUYANG NILILITIS ANG KASO NI CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA SA SENADO.

Q143. Paano ninyo ilalarawan ang inyong kaalaman tungkol sa isyung ito?

Public opinion is split on the matter of whether or not members of the House of Representatives fast-tracked the impeachment process

While 38% of Filipinos do not think members of the Lower House fast-tracked the process of impeachment Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona, 32% of Filipinos have a contrary opinion. Indecision on the matter is expressed by 29% of Filipinos. A near majority of Metro Manilans (46%) says the impeachment process at the Lower House was fast-tracked, while a big plurality of those in the rest of Luzon (44%) believes otherwise. In the Visayas, almost the same percentages either express ambivalence on the matter or reject the view that the impeachment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona was hastily done by

members of the Lower House (44% versus 32%). In Class D, nearly the same percentages either agree or disagree with the view that the impeachment process at the House of Representatives was fast-tracked (32% versus 41%). Public opinion on the matter is split three-ways in Mindanao and Classes ABC and E, with figures being generally consistent with those obtaining at the national level. (Please refer to Table 3.)

Table 3
AGREEMENT / DISAGREEMENT WITH TEST STATEMENT:
"The members of the House of Representatives fast-tracked
the process of impeaching Chief Justice Renato Corona."
 February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

Would you please say if you agree or disagree with this statement? "The members of the House of Representatives fast-tracked the process of impeaching Chief Justice Renato Corona." (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	NCR	BAL		MIN	ABC	D	E
			LUZ	VIS				
AGREE	32	46	31	24	35	37	32	33
Strongly agree	7	12	3	5	12	10	7	6
Agree	26	35	27	19	23	26	25	26
UNDECIDED	29	24	25	44	29	30	27	35
DISAGREE	38	30	44	32	37	33	41	33
Disagree	33	26	40	28	27	31	36	27
Strongly disagree	5	3	4	4	10	3	6	6

Maaaring pakisabi kung kayo ay sumasang-ayon o hindi sumasang-ayon sa pangungusap na ito. (STATEMENT CARD)

SPLIT SAMPLE

Q144a. MINADALI NG MGA MIYEMBRO NG MABABANG KAPULUNGAN ANG GINAWANG PROSESO SA PAG IMPEACH KAY CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA.

Q144b. HINDI MINADALI NG MGA MIYEMBRO NG MABABANG KAPULUNGAN ANG GINAWANG PROSESO SA PAG IMPEACH KAY CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA.

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.

Most Filipinos (69%) expect the senators to be fair and impartial in the performance of their duty as judges in the ongoing impeachment trial

Nearly seven in ten Filipinos (69%) are of the view that the senators will be fair and will not favor anyone when they finally decide on the impeachment case against Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona. This is the majority sentiment in all geographic areas (63% to 74%) and socio-economic groupings (66% to 71%). On the other hand, 22% say the senator-judges will not be fair – a view that is more pronounced in Mindanao (30%) than in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon (18% to 19%). Indecision on the matter is expressed by less than one in ten Filipinos (9%). (Please refer to Table 4.)

Table 4
FAIRNESS OF SENATOR-JUDGES
IN THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA
 February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

There are some people who believe and those who doubt that the Senators who will judge the impeachment case of Chief Justice Corona will be fair.								
Of the following, which one is closest to your own view? (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	NCR	BAL LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
The Senators WILL BE FAIR and WILL NOT FAVOR any one in judging the impeachment case against Chief Justice Corona	69	68	74	63	66	68	71	66
The Senators WILL NOT BE FAIR and WILL FAVOR someone in judging the impeachment case against Chief Justice Corona	22	19	18	24	30	28	21	24
Don't know	9	13	8	13	4	4	9	10

Q150. May mga taong nagtitiwala at mayroon ding mga taong nagdududa na ang mga Senador na huhusga sa kaso ng impeachment laban kay Chief Justice Corona ay magiging makatarungan. Sa mga sumusunod, alin ang higit na malapit sa inyong sariling pananaw?

While 47% of Filipinos think Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is guilty of the charges filed against him, 43% are ambivalent as regards his innocence or guilt

Almost half of the Filipino population (47%) is of the view that Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is guilty, with 33% saying he is probably guilty and 15% being certain about his guilt. Meanwhile, 43% cannot say whether the government official is guilty or not. Practically the same percentages across geographic areas and socio-economic classes either think the Chief Justice is guilty (37% to 52%) or express indecision on the matter (43% to 48%). An exception is Mindanao where 54% say the Supreme Court Chief Justice is guilty and significantly fewer residents (31%) are undecided on the matter. On the other hand, only 5% of Filipinos believe Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is innocent of the charges filed against him, with 4% saying he is probably innocent and 1% saying he is definitely innocent. (Please refer to Table 5.)

Table 5
OPINION ON CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA'S INNOCENCE OR GUILT
 February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

Of the charges Chief Justice Renato Corona is accused of, would you say that he is... ? (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	BAL			MIN	ABC	D	E
		NCR	LUZ	VIS				
INNOCENT	5	4	3	4	9	1	6	3
Definitely innocent	1	1	0	1	2	1	1	0
Probably innocent	4	3	2	2	8	0	4	3
UNDECIDED	43	45	47	48	31	44	43	44
GUILTY	47	50	48	37	54	52	48	45
Probably guilty	33	28	35	23	38	26	34	31
Definitely guilty	15	22	13	14	16	25	15	14
I don't have enough basis for somehow making a decision	5	1	2	11	6	3	3	8

Q151. Sa mga ipinapatang na pagkakasala kay Chief Justice Renato Corona, masasabi ba ninyong siya ay... (SHOWCARD) ?

Notes: (1) % Innocent = % Definitely innocent plus % Probably innocent; % Guilty = % Probably guilty plus % Definitely guilty

(2) Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding off.

Filipinos' opinion on whether the Supreme Court Chief Justice is innocent or guilty was formed during the conduct of the impeachment trial

A sizeable majority (64%) of those who say Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is innocent arrived at this conclusion as the impeachment trial was unfolding. Practically the same percentage of those who believe the latter is guilty also reports that they formed their opinion on the matter in the course of the trial. Across geographic areas and socio-economic classes, most of those who say the Supreme Court Chief Justice is guilty formed their opinion on the matter during the conduct of the impeachment trial (56% to 76% and 66% to 68%, respectively). Among those saying Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is innocent, majorities in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon and Mindanao (64% to 73%) and Classes D and E (62% to 77%) also formed their opinion on the matter as the trial was being done at the Senate. (Please refer to Table 6.)

Table 6
TIME WHEN RESPONDENT FORMED AN
OPINION ON CHIEF JUSTICE RENATO CORONA'S INNOCENCE OR GUILT
 February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
 (In Percent)

When did you form your opinion on Chief Justice Renato Corona's guilt or innocence? Did you form this ... ?	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	NCR	BAL		MIN	ABC	D	E
			LUZ	VIS				
Base: Those who say CJ Corona is innocent	5	4	3	4	9	1	6	3
Before the impeachment trial began	36	31	27	52	36	100	38	23
During the conduct of the impeachment trial	64	69	73	48	64	0	62	77
Base: Those who say CJ Corona is guilty	47	50	48	37	54	52	48	45
Before the impeachment trial began	34	24	30	44	40	33	34	32
During the conduct of the impeachment trial	66	76	70	56	60	67	66	68

Q152. Kailan po nabuo ang inyong opinyon na ito tungkol sa pagiging may sala o inosente ni Chief Justice Renato Corona? Nabuo ba ang inyong opinyon (SHOWCARD)

A small majority of Filipinos (58%) believes their countrymen will accept and respect whatever the Senate's decision on the impeachment case of Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona will be

According to 58% of Filipinos, their countrymen will accept and respect the Senate's decision as regards the impeachment case of the Supreme Court Chief Justice, whether most of the people like it or not. This is the majority sentiment in every socio-economic class (53% to 63%) and almost all geographic areas (53% to 68%). The Visayas is the exception, with essentially the same percentages either sharing this view (40%) or saying that most Filipinos will accept and respect only the decision that they favor (41%). The latter view is articulated by 34% of Filipinos. Indecision on the matter is expressed by less than one in ten Filipinos (8%). Additionally, public opinion on the matter is generally the same regardless of whether Filipinos believe Supreme Court Chief Justice Corona is innocent or guilty. (Please refer to Table 7.)

Table 7
ACCEPTABILITY OF THE SENATE'S DECISION ON THE IMPEACHMENT CASE

February 26 - March 9, 2012 / Philippines
(In Percent)

There are people who believe that whatever is the decision of the Senate in the impeachment case against Chief Justice Renato Corona, whether majority of the Filipinos like it or not, will be respected and accepted by them. There are also those who oppose this view and say that only those decisions which the majority of the Filipinos like will be respected and accepted.								
Of the following, which one is closer to your own view? (Base: Total Interviews, 100%)	LOCATION					CLASS		
	RP	NCR	BAL LUZ	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
Whatever decision is made by the Senate, whether the majority of the Filipinos like it or not, will be respected and accepted by them	58	62	68	40	53	63	60	53
The majority of the Filipinos will respect or accept only the decision that they like	34	32	27	41	43	30	33	37
Don't know	8	7	5	19	4	7	7	11
Base: Those who say CJ Corona is innocent	5	4	3	4	9	1	6	3
Whatever decision is made by the Senate, whether the majority of the Filipinos like it or not, will be respected and accepted by them	56	77	82	32	45	100	61	37
The majority of the Filipinos will respect or accept only the decision that they like	43	23	18	64	55	0	38	63
Don't know	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0
Base: Those who say CJ Corona is guilty	47	50	48	37	54	52	48	45
Whatever decision is made by the Senate, whether the majority of the Filipinos like it or not, will be respected and accepted by them	63	59	71	47	60	68	67	53
The majority of the Filipinos will respect or accept only the decision that they like	34	37	28	44	38	29	31	41
Don't know	3	4	1	9	2	3	2	5

Q153. May mga taong naniniwala na anuman ang maging desisyon ng Senado sa kasong impeachment laban kay Chief Justice Renato Corona, kahit gusto o hindi gusto ng nakararaming mga Pilipino, ay igagalang at tatanggapin nila. Mayroon namang sumasalungat sa pananaw na ito at nagsasabing iyon lamang desisyon na gusto ng nakararaming mga Pilipino ang kanilang igagalang at tatanggapin. Sa mga sumusunod, alin ang higit na malapit sa inyong sariling pananaw? (SHOWCARD)