Self-Rated Poverty Rises To 58.5%

About 58.5% or 15,395 families in Naga City consider themselves “Poor,” 24.3% rate themselves as “Not Poor,” while 17.3% say that they are neither poor nor well-off, according to the results of the survey conducted by the Ateneo Student Researchers Pool in July 2008.

The new self-rated poverty rate is 5.7 percentage points higher than the 52.8% recorded during a similar survey in March 2008. The self-rated monthly poverty threshold for Naga City is placed at PHP10,000.

The July 2008 survey also found that the proportion of families experiencing hunger in Naga City also increased from 23.3% in March 2008 to 32.5% in July 2008.

The increase in the number of families experiencing poverty and hunger from April to June 2008 appears to reflect the height of the global problem in food and fuel that occurred during the same period.

Families Cope With Rising Commodity Prices

Confronted by the rising cost of basic commodities like rice, families in Naga City are finding ways to cope with the problem.

Most of the families resort to buying food of inferior quality (65%), borrowing money from relatives (64%), migrating to other places in search of wage labor (45%), as well as asking other family members to work already (43%).

Some also mention defaulting on their existing loans, reducing the number of family meals per day, selling some household assets, moving to cheaper housing units, and/or discontinuing school.

A few others opt to work longer hours, save on leisure expenses, grow garden vegetables, or even ask for some charity.

Theft And Street Crimes Leading Threats To Security In Naga City . . .

34% of the respondents report that they or a member of their family have actually fallen victims to some form of crime in the past six months (January to June 2008). Theft and street crimes, specifically pick-pocketing and snatching, appear to be the emerging threats to the security of Nagueños.

. . . But Most Nagueños Remain Confident With The Naga City PNP

50% of the respondents maintained that they believe that the Naga City PNP is acting sufficiently to lessen the incidence of crime within the city. Only 20% of the respondents claim otherwise, while 30% remain undecided.

Naguenos Eye Presidentiables for the 2010 National Elections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Support (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noli De Castro</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiz Escudero</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manny Villar</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loren Legarda</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar Roxas</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

? 23% Undecided

Usapang Mag-asawa . . .

44% of married and live-in couples in Naga City actually practice some form of family planning method.

64% do not perceive that the use of artificial methods of family planning is against the teachings of their religion.

63% use modern contraceptives (e.g., pills, ligation, injections, condoms, IUD).

35% use traditional methods (e.g., “rhythm,” withdrawal).

2% use modern natural family planning (e.g., standard days method or SDM).