



MEDIA RELEASE



April 17, 2015

2015 First Quarter Naga City Poverty and Governance Public Opinion Poll Naga City Poor Slightly Increased, Most City Offices and Mayor Bongat Rated “Good”, and Nagueños Speak about BBL, ASEAN, and Pedestrianization

Naga poverty slightly increased but Nagueños remain optimists

The 2015 First Quarter Naga City Poverty and Governance Public Opinion Poll found that two out of five Naga City families (43.5%) declared themselves as *pobre*. Self-rated poverty incidence slightly increased by 1.2-percentage points from last year of the same quarter. Most of the respondents (30.5%) said that having no permanent job is the major reason for being poor. Median poverty threshold or the amount of monthly income that an average Naga household needs in order to become “not poor” remained at PhP20,000. This survey also found that 42.3% considered themselves food insecure.

On the change in Personal Quality of Life compared to six months ago, survey found that 45% said their lives *improved* (“*Gainers*”) while 21.8% said their lives *worsened* (“*Losers*”), for a *very high* Net Gainers score of +23.2 (the difference of *Gainers* over *Losers*)

More than half (56.8%) of Naga City adults expect their personal quality of life to improve in the next 6 months (“*Optimists*”), and 4.8% expect it to get worse (“*Pessimists*”), for a *very high* Net Personal Optimism score of +52 (the difference of *Optimists* over *Pessimists*).

Most city offices rated “good” by Nagueños; Civil Registrar’s Office rated “excellent”

Among the selected city offices, the Civil Registrar’s Office got an “*excellent*” rating of +71.2%. Some city offices received a “*very good*” net satisfaction rating; these are Metro Naga Water District (+57.4%), City Assessor’s (+57.1%), City Health (+55.2%), and Solid Waste Management (+54.5%). A number of offices received a “*good*” net satisfaction rating; these are City Social Welfare and Development (+48.3%), City Mayor’s (+47.6%), Environment and Natural Resources (+41.6%), Public Employment Services (+40.0%), City Administrator’s (+38.9%), Public Safety (+37.3%), Naga City Hospital (+37.0%), and City PNP (+32.7%). The net satisfaction rating of CASURECO II (+18.9%) which is “*moderate*” improved from last year 1st quarter rating of “*neutral*.”

In general, Nagueños gave their nod to these offices because of service assurance (78.8%), which includes employees being *magalang* (respectful), *madaling dulukon* (approachable), *maasikaso* (attentive), and *maboot* (kind).

Half of city officials including Mayor Bongat rated “good” by Nagueños though at lower percentage points from last year’s rating

Mayor Bongat who received a net satisfaction rating of +34.8% was rated “good”, although this is a notable downgrade by -24.7 percentage points from last year of the same quarter’s rating of +59.5% or “very good.” Other city officials either retained their satisfaction rating of “good” or downgraded to “moderate” and “neutral” even if all of them have also received a decrease in percentage points, ranging from -11.2% to -33.7% . City officials who retained “good” rating include Vice Mayor Legacion (+33.9%) and Councilors Sergio (+37.9%), De Asis (+35.3%), Bordado (+30.9%), and Raquid-Arroyo (+29.7%). Those rated “moderate” are Councilors Abonal (+25.9%), Lavadia (+25.4%), Castillo (+24.0%), Perez (+17.3%), Rentoy (+15.5%), and Tuason (14.7%). Only Councilor Baldemoro got the rating of “neutral” (+7.5%).

Nine out of ten voting-age Nagueños have not yet made up their minds for the 2016 elections; a mayor who is ‘matinabang’ is preferred

As of this survey, 87.8% of voting-age Nagueños have no one in mind to run as candidate for city mayor in 2016. Of the 12.2% who have thought of their candidate, 28.6% expressed their preference for Leni Robredo, 26.5% for Nelson Legacion, and 22.4% for John Bongat. Other names that came out were Nathan Sergio, Gabriel Bordado III, Jessica Robredo, Esteban Abonal III, and Fortunato Mendoza (with percentage ranging from 4.1% to 10.2%). About half of voting-age Nagueños (47.1%) preferred their mayor to be helpful (*matinabang*).

Nine out of ten voting-age Nagueños (90%) have not yet thought of their candidate for city vice-mayor in 2016 however, for the 10% who have already thought of their preferred candidate, 55% expressed their preference for Nelson Legacion, 22.5% for Gabriel Bordado III, and 20% for Nathan Sergio.

Average knowledge of BBL for one-third of adult Nagueños

More than one out of three Nagueños (36.8%) have read, heard, or seen about the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) however, majority (50.3%) of them have an average knowledge of the proposed law and gave a ‘poor’ net approval rating of -21.2%. The main reasons for being not in favor include the perception that BBL will result to confusion and conflict (34.3%), will cause the division of the Filipino people (31.4%), and will only cause for the continuance of abuses in Mindanao.

Average knowledge of ASEAN Integration 2015 to 7% of adult Nagueños

Very few Nagueños (7%) have read, heard, or seen about the ASEAN Integration of 2015. Half of them (50%) have an average knowledge of this agreement who gave a “good” net approval rating of +35.7%. Major reasons cited for their approval are increased job opportunities (35.7%), boost of tourism (28.6%), and creation of common currency, uplift of the country’s economy, and fostered unity among ASEAN countries (last three at 21.4% each).

“Poor” approval obtained by pedestrianization plan

Nagueños were presented with the proposed plan to close certain roads to vehicular traffic around Centro during certain hours of the day to promote walking. This proposal called pedestrianization plan received a “poor” approval rating of -19.7%. Nagueños who disapproved reasoned that the closing of some roads will cause delay and waste of time (65.6%), will cause congestion in the alternative routes (39.9%), and will decrease the income of PUV drivers (4.6%).

Survey Background

The 2015 First Quarter Naga City Poverty and Governance Public Opinion Poll used face-to-face interview of 400 representative samples randomly selected from voting age population of Naga City. The error margin is $\pm 4.9\%$. The survey was conducted from February 8 to March 8, 2015 by the Ateneo Student Researchers Pool, which consists of 21 student scholars of Ateneo de Naga University; under the guidance of the Ateneo Social Science Research Center staff and funding from the University Research Council. The study adapts Social Weather Station (SWS) methodology and uses its rating interpretation terminology.