

16 April 2010

**SWS March 2010 Pre-Election Survey:
Expected election irregularities: 71% vote-buying,
51% cheating in counting, 48% flying voters, 45% voter harassment
and 37% use of violence during election campaign**

Social Weather Stations

Seventy-one percent of registered voters expect vote-buying to happen in their own locality in the May 2010 elections, according to the special SWS Pre-Election Survey conducted from March 19 to 22, 2010.

Compared to expectations of vote-buying, fewer percentages expect the following election irregularities to happen (% Definitely/ Probably happen): *cheating in the counting of votes* (51%), *flying voters* (48%), *harassment of voters* (45%), and *use of violence during the election campaign period* (37%).

In the February 2010 Pre-Election Survey, 78% expect voting to be clean and orderly in their precinct, and 68% expect the Commission of Elections (COMELEC) to honestly count the votes. However, 56% expect cheating in vote-counting in some levels, not limited to precincts only.

Increase of expectations of election irregularities 2010

Grassroots expectations of election irregularities in 2010 and 2007 are markedly higher compared to previous campaigns in 2004, 2001 and 1992. In 2007, expectations of election irregularities were steady between February and mid-April, but then declined from mid-April to early May. [Chart 1, Table 1]

Compared to the May 2007 survey, expectations of election irregularities have increased in February 2010 and then in March 2010.

Expectations of *vote-buying* increased from 57% in May 2007 to 63% in February 2010 and 71% in March 2010.

Expectations of *cheating in vote-counting* increased from 45% in May 2007 to 49% in February 2010 and 51% in March 2010.

Expectations of *flying voters* slightly declined from 41% in May 2007 to 39% in February 2010 before increasing to 48% in March 2010.

Expectations of *harassment of voters* increased from 30% in May 2007 to 34% in February 2010 and 45% in March 2010.

Expectations of the *use of violence during the election campaign period* slightly increased to 37% in March 2010 from 31% in February 2010, the first time SWS tested the issue.

Expectations of harassment and use of violence high in Mindanao

The expectations that there will be *harassment of voters* and *use of violence during the election campaign period* are higher in Mindanao than in the other three areas. [Table 2]

Three-fifths (60%) in Mindanao expect the *harassment of voters* to occur in their own locality, higher than those in Balance Luzon (43%), Metro Manila (38%) and Visayas (36%) who expect the same.

On the possibility of the *use of violence during the election campaign period*, 52% in Mindanao expect this to happen. Only about one-third in Metro Manila (35%), Balance Luzon (32%) and Visayas (30%) believe that there will be *violence during the campaign period* in their own locality.

Expectation of vote-buying high in all areas

The expectation that vote-buying will occur in their own locality is high across all areas.

In particular, reported expectation of vote-buying happening in their locality is slightly higher in Visayas (75%) and Mindanao (75%) than in Balance Luzon (69%) and Metro Manila (66%). [Table 3]

Expectations of cheating and flying voters high in Metro Manila and Mindanao

Expectations of *cheating in the counting of votes* and *flying voters* are higher in Metro Manila and Mindanao than in Balance Luzon and Visayas.

Sixty percent in Mindanao and 58% in Metro Manila expect that there will be *cheating in the counting of votes* in their own locality. Most of those from Visayas (57%) and Balance Luzon (52%), however, do not expect cheating in vote-counting to happen.

On the possibility of *voting of flying voters* during the May 2010 elections, 60% in Mindanao and 57% in Metro Manila expect this to happen. In contrast, 62% in Visayas and 56% in Balance Luzon do not expect the occurrence of *flying voters*.

Clean and orderly voting in own precinct

In the February 2010 Pre-election survey, most registered voters expect that voting will be clean and orderly in their own precinct, with 78% agreeing and 6% disagreeing that, "*In the coming elections, voting will be clean and orderly in our precinct,*" for a net agreement of +71 (% agree minus % disagree, correctly rounded). [Table 4]

Expectation of clean and orderly voting is much higher in February 2010 than in February 2007, when 60% agreed and 14% disagreed with the statement, for a net agreement of +46.

In February 2010, expectation on having clean and orderly voting in their own precinct in the May 10 elections is slightly higher in Visayas (+77) than in Balance Luzon (+71), Mindanao (+70) and Metro Manila (+66).

In February 2007, net agreement to the test statement was also higher in the provincial areas (+46 to +49) than in Metro Manila (+32).

COMELEC will honestly count the votes

Sixty-eight percent agree, while 8% disagree that, "*The COMELEC will honestly count the votes of the people in the coming elections,*" for a net agreement of +60. [Table 5]

The belief in the COMELEC honestly counting the votes in the elections is higher in February 2010 than in February 2007, when 53% agreed and 21% disagreed, for a net of +32.

Net agreement is higher in Visayas (+71) than in Balance Luzon (+60), Mindanao (+56) and Metro Manila (+50).

Cheating in the counting of votes

Fifty-six percent agree, while 16% disagree, that, "*In the coming May 2010 elections, there might be cheating in the count in some levels, but not limited to the precinct only,*" for a net agreement of +39. [Table 6]

The expectation that there might be some cheating in the counting of votes slightly increased in February 2010 compared to February 2007, when 48% agreed and 21% disagreed, for a net agreement of +27.

By area, net agreement to the test statement is higher in Metro Manila (+50) and Balance Luzon (+43) than in Mindanao (+36) and Visayas (+29).

Survey Background

The March 2010 Social Weather Survey was conducted from March 19-22, 2010 using face-to-face interviews of 2,100 registered voters, divided into random samples of 300 in Metro Manila and 600 each in Balance Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao (sampling error margins of $\pm 2.2\%$ for national percentages, $\pm 6\%$ for Metro Manila, and $\pm 4\%$ for Balance Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). The area estimates were weighted using Comelec data on registered voters as of January 2010 to obtain the national estimates.

The February 2010 survey items were sponsored by The Asia Foundation. These items are released as a public service.

The items on expected election irregularities were first presented by Dr. Mahar Mangahas at the ARMM Election Stakeholders' Meeting sponsored by The Asia Foundation and held on April 15, 2010 at Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City.

SWS employs its own staff for questionnaire design, sampling, fieldwork, data-processing, and analysis, and does not outsource any of its survey operations.

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Chart 1

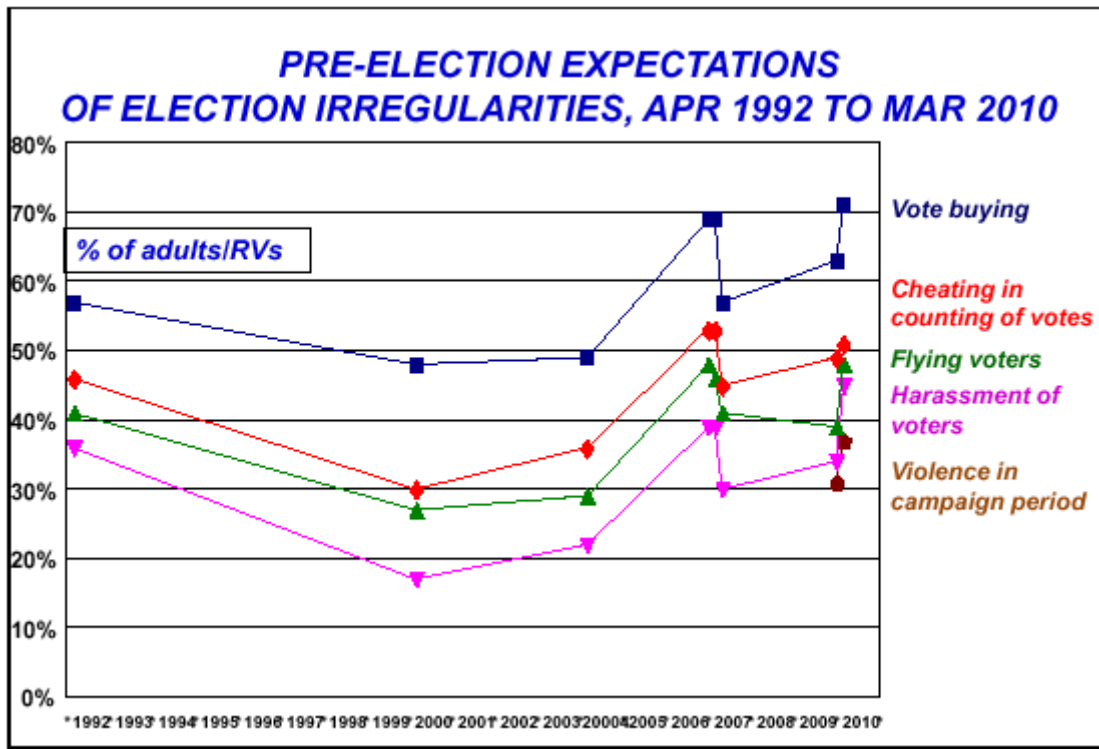


Table 1

**PRE-ELECTION EXPECTATIONS
OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES, APR 1992 TO MAR 2010**

	<u>Apr'92</u>	<u>Apr'01</u>	<u>Apr'04</u>	<u>Feb'07</u>	<u>Apr'07</u>	<u>May'07</u>	<u>Feb'10</u>	<u>Mar'10</u>
Vote-buying	57%	48%	49%	69%	69%	57%	63%	71%
Cheating in the counting of votes	46	30	36	53	53	45	49	51
Flying voters	41	27	29	48	46	41	39	48
Harassment of voters	36	17	22	39	39	30	34	45
Violence in election campaign period	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	37

Sa palagay ninyo, ano po ang posibilidad na mangyayari sa mga sumusunod na problema dito sa inyong lugar sa darating na halalan sa Mayo 2010. Ang mga ito po ba ay siguradong mangyayari, malamang na mangyayari, malamang na hindi mangyayari o siguradong hindi mangyayari? [PAGBIBILI NG BOTO, PANANAKOT NG MGA BOTANTE, PAGBOBOTO NG MGA HUWAD NA BOTANTE O FLYING VOTERS, PANDARAYA SA BILANG NG MGA BOTO, PAGGAMIT NG DAHAS SA PANAON NG PANGANGAMPANYA SA ELEKSYON]

Table 2

**EXPECTATIONS OF HARASSMENT OF VOTERS AND
VIOLENCE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD,
BY AREA, MAR 2010**

	<u>RP</u>	<u>NCR</u>	<u>BAL LUZ</u>	<u>VIS</u>	<u>MIN</u>
<u>Harassment of voters</u>					
Definitely/probably will happen	45%	38%	43%	36%	60%
Probably/Definitely will not happen	54	61	57	64	39
<u>Violence in election campaign period</u>					
Definitely/probably will happen	37	35	32	30	52
Probably/Definitely will not happen	63	65	67	70	47

Sa palagay ninyo, ano po ang posibilidad na mangyayari sa mga sumusunod na problema dito sa inyong lugar sa darating na halalan sa Mayo 2010. Ang mga ito po ba ay siguradong mangyayari, malamang na mangyayari, malamang na hindi mangyayari o siguradong hindi mangyayari? [PAGBIBILI NG BOTO, PANANAKOT NG MGA BOTANTE, PAGBOBOTO NG MGA HUWAD NA BOTANTE O FLYING VOTERS, PANDARAYA SA BILANG NG MGA BOTO, PAGGAMIT NG DAHAS SA PANAON NG PANGANGAMPANYA SA ELEKSYON]

Table 3

EXPECTATIONS OF VOTE-BUYING, CHEATING IN COUNTING OF VOTES AND FLYING VOTERS, BY AREA, MAR 2010

	<u>RP</u>	<u>NCR</u>	<u>BAL LUZ</u>	<u>VIS</u>	<u>MIN</u>
<u>Vote-buying</u>					
Definitely/probably will happen	71%	66%	69%	75%	75%
Probably/Definitely will not happen	28	33	31	25	25
<u>Cheating in the counting of votes</u>					
Definitely/probably will happen	51	58	48	42	60
Probably/Definitely will not happen	49	41	52	57	40
<u>Flying voters</u>					
Definitely/probably will happen	48	57	43	38	60
Probably/Definitely will not happen	52	42	56	62	39

Sa palagay ninyo, ano po ang posibilidad na mangyayari sa mga sumusunod na problema dito sa inyong lugar sa darating na halalan sa Mayo 2010. Ang mga ito po ba ay siguradong mangyayari, malamang na mangyayari, malamang na hindi mangyayari o siguradong hindi mangyayari? [PAGBIBILI NG BOTO, PANANAKOT NG MGA BOTANTE, PAGBOBOTO NG MGA HUWAD NA BOTANTE O FLYING VOTERS, PANDARAYA SA BILANG NG MGA BOTO, PAGGAMIT NG DAHAS SA PANAHON NG PANGANGAMPANYA SA ELEKSYON]

Table 4

“IN THE COMING ELECTIONS, VOTING WILL BE CLEAN AND ORDERLY IN OUR PRECINCT,” BY AREA, FEB 2007 AND FEB 2010

	<u>RP</u>	<u>NCR</u>	<u>BAL LUZ</u>	<u>VIS</u>	<u>MIN</u>
<u>Feb 2007</u>					
Agree	60%	51%	63%	60%	59%
Undecided	25	30	21	27	27
Disagree	14	19	14	13	13
Net*	+46	+32	+49	+48	+46
<u>Feb 2010</u>					
Agree	78	75	78	82	75
Undecided	16	16	16	13	17
Disagree	6	9	6	5	6
Net*	+71	+66	+71	+77	+70

** Net agreement = % Agree minus % Disagree correctly rounded. Don't Know and Refused responses are not shown. Q120. Gaano po kayo sumasang-ayon o hindi sumasang-ayon sa pangungusap na ito – “SA DARATING NA ELEKSYON, MAGIGING MALINIS AT MAAYOS ANG BOTOHAN SA AMING PRESINTO.”*

Table 5

**“THE COMELEC WILL HONESTLY COUNT THE VOTES
OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COMING ELECTIONS,”
BY AREA, FEB 2007 AND FEB 2010**

	<u>RP</u>	<u>NCR</u>	<u>BAL LUZ</u>	<u>VIS</u>	<u>MIN</u>
<u>Feb 2007</u>					
Agree	53%	42%	51%	60%	59%
Undecided	25	29	25	24	22
Disagree	21	27	23	16	18
Net*	+32	+15	+28	+44	+41
<u>Feb 2010</u>					
Agree	68	65	68	76	65
Undecided	23	20	24	19	25
Disagree	8	15	8	5	9
Net*	+60	+50	+60	+71	+56

* Net agreement = % Agree minus % Disagree correctly rounded. Don't Know and Refused responses are not shown.

Q122. Gaano po kayo sumasang-ayon o hindi sumasang-ayon sa pangungusap na ito – “ANG COMELEC AY MATAPAT NA BIBILANGIN ANG BOTO SA DARATING NA HALALAN.”

Table 6

**“IN THE COMING MAY 2010 ELECTIONS, THERE MIGHT BE
CHEATING IN THE COUNT IN SOME LEVELS, NOT LIMITED
TO THE PRECINCT ONLY,” BY AREA,
FEB 2007 AND FEB 2010**

	<u>RP</u>	<u>NCR</u>	<u>BAL LUZ</u>	<u>VIS</u>	<u>MIN</u>
<u>Feb 2007</u>					
Agree	48%	57%	50%	42%	45%
Undecided	29	26	29	32	29
Disagree	21	16	19	25	25
Net*	+27	+41	+31	+17	+21
<u>Feb 2010</u>					
Agree	56	63	57	52	53
Undecided	27	23	28	25	30
Disagree	16	13	14	23	17
Net*	+39	+50	+43	+29	+36

* Net agreement = % Agree minus % Disagree correctly rounded. Don't Know and Refused responses are not shown.

Feb 2007 wording: “SA DARATING NA ELEKSYON SA MAYO 14, 2007 PARA SA SENADOR, MAAARING MAY PANDARAYANG MAGANAP SA BILANGAN SA ILANG ANTAS, HINDI LIMITADO SA PRESINTO LANG.”

Feb 2010 Q122: “SA DARATING NA ELEKSYON SA MAYO 2010, MAAARING MAY PANDARAYANG MAGANAP SA BILANGAN SA ILANG ANTAS, HINDI LIMITADO SA PRESINTO LANG.”