

Analysts say Poe starting to come into her own

By: **Lira Dalangin-Fernandez, InterAksyon.com**

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The online news portal of TV5

MANILA, Philippines - Emerging as the apparent preferred candidate for President in two major surveys, could Senator Grace Poe be the "knight in shining armor" who would lift the Filipinos out of the mire of poverty?

Two political analysts said on Friday they believe that, in her short stint in politics, Poe is beginning to create her own identity, to which the masses are able to relate.

"She is clean, likeable, and there is that FPJ magic," Temario Rivera, chairperson of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG), described Poe and alluding to the mystic of her adoptive father, the popular actor-director Fernando Poe, Jr., at a news forum Friday in Quezon City.

FPJ lost to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a bitterly contested presidential race in 2004.

Rivera said that, in a short period of time, Poe was able to show a stellar performance at the Senate on how she handled inquiries, such as the case of then Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima and the Mamasapano bloodbath that killed at least 44 police Special Action Force commandos in an encounter with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Bobby Tuazon, CenPEG policy analyst, echoed that Senator Poe's showing at the Senate was the major reason for her surge in the recent surveys conducted by Pulse Asia, Social Weather Stations and Ibon Foundation.

"She appeared independent from Malacañang," Tuazon said, but added that the "overarching" reason is her being a Poe.

Poe's father, Fernando Poe Jr., played roles in movies that portrayed him as the defender of the masses.

The senator appeared to be treading the same path, Rivera and Tuazon said.

Rivera recalled that Senator Poe, at one time, joined the long queue of passengers taking the MRT to get the feel of their daily woes when commuting.

Rivera said Poe's image contrasts with that of Vice President Jejomar Binay, who is currently mired in corruption allegations, and that of Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, who strikes one as a "cacique" or a local political boss.

"What strikes me is, for the first time, a relatively new comer in politics has captured the leading trend in voter preference. I refer, of course, to Senator Grace Poe," Tuazon said.

Poe topped the senatorial elections in 2013, running as independent, but in coalition with the administration's ticket.

Tuazon said that how Poe handled the controversial inquiries at the Senate such as the Mamasapano incident "somehow increased her credibility."

"She does not appear to be the traditional politician we are aware of. . . she projects a new face in politics," he added.

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/112709/analysts-say-poe-starting-to-come-into-her-own>

Candidates need to rethink the 'bobotante'

By Inday Espina-Varona, ABS-CBNnews.com

Posted at 06/19/2015 8:00 PM

Binay slips among poor voters

MANILA - The strategy of patronage has a point of diminishing returns when it comes to national elections.

When the media banner voters' top issues of concern, and race leaders trip under the spotlight, other candidates can play catch up without breaking the bank, according to political scientists assessing the results of the latest Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations (SWS) surveys.

In the Philippines, voters' preference for "pro-poor" candidates has long been interpreted as a boon for candidates who buy votes with cash or services sourced from their pork barrels.

Political scientist Temario Rivera, however, told ABS-CBNnews.com that past national elections showed poor voters identifying graft and corruption – and equal enforcement of the law – as their main concern.

In failing to walk the talk, Vice President Jejomar Binay lost substantial support from the critical D and E voting blocs, said Bobby Tuazon, director of policy studies at the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPeg).

Rethinking 'bobotante'

Good governance and election watchdogs like tracing the Philippines' endemic corruption to the huge base of poor voters with low-educational levels.

The message can be grating: "bobotante" (stupid voters) elect corrupt politicians in exchange for a few hundred pesos worth of bribes and other displays of patronage.

The latest series of presidential preference surveys by Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations (SWS), however, show a different story.

Binay, long known as king of largesse – decades of twin-city programs and a vast array of social services and quaint perks for Makati City residents -- has slumped among the crucial Class D and E voter demographics.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who for now has the administration’s formidable resources behind him, continues to inch up the surveys, not enough to ease concerns about his “winnability.”

Independent contender, Sen. Grace Poe, meanwhile, zoomed past Binay, doubling and tripling her ratings in crucial economic demographics and the most vote-rich areas.

Crucial base

In the latest Pulse Asia report, Binay saw a drop in Class D and E backers, from March to May this year.

Table 1
2016 ELECTIONS: PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
May 30 - June 5, 2015 / Philippines
(In Percent)

Base: Total Interviews, 100%

	RP	LOCATION				CLASS		
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E
<i>Of the people on this list, whom would you vote for as PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES if the 2016 elections were held today and they were candidates? You may mention others not included in this list.</i>								
POE, GRACE	30	32	36	30	15	31	31	25
BINAY, JEJOMAR "Jojo"	22	22	22	26	18	29	20	26
DUTERTE, RODRIGO "Rody"	15	11	7	13	37	13	17	14
ROXAS, MANUEL "Mar"	10	5	12	12	8	9	10	12
ESTRADA, JOSEPH "Erap"	10	9	8	7	16	2	9	13
DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO, MIRIAM	6	11	7	5	3	7	6	6
CAYETANO, ALAN PETER	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	2
LACSON, PANFILO "Ping" M.	2	5	3	0	1	6	3	0
SABIO, CAMILO	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SEÑERES, ROY	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Others	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Don't Know	0.4	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Refused	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
None	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Q14. Sa mga larang na ito sila hanggang sa sino ang tingnan bilang PRESIDENTE NG PILIPINAS kung ang eleksyon ng 2016 ay gagangapin ngayon at sila ay mga kandidato? Maaari kayong magbanggit ng iba pa na nasa sa listahan. (ONE ANSWER ONLY)

The period featured legislative and legal probes into alleged corruption which led to a freeze of his assets and that of kin and trusted aides.

His portion of D voters slipped from 30% to 20%. From 33%, his class E share went down to 25%.

CLASS		
	D	E
	31	25
	20	26
	17	14
	10	12
	9	13
<hr/>		
	6	6
	3	2
	3	0
	--	--
	--	--
<hr/>		
	1	1
	0	1
	1	1
	0	0

The D class accounts for 60% of the population, according to a report released in 2011 by then National Statistics Coordinating Board (NSCB) head Tomas Africa.

The lowest end of the middle class, or the higher end of the poor, comprises the D voters.

Rivera places the D voter base at 60% to 65%, and the E class at 25% to 29%.

Overall, the Vice President dropped 7-percentage points in the survey conducted from May 15 to June 5, a development described as “slightly significant” by Pulse Asia president Ronald Holmes.

Rivera pointed out that Binay’s ratings have “progressively declined” since June 2014, when he enjoyed a 40% share of respondents.

More dangerous, he said, are the “very significant” gains of Poe, who more than doubled her share of voters’ preference nationwide.

The senator’s share of the D class doubled, from 15% in the March 2015 survey to 31% in May.

In the E class, the traditional hold of Binay and the populist former president Joseph Estrada, Poe’s rating increased from 13% to 25%

Rivera, who chairs CenPeg, said the slump is serious since the margin of error for D voters is low, around 4% to 5%.

Media’s role

Holmes, in an interview with ANC, said there were days when Binay’s alleged links to corruption was “only thing hogging the news.”

Political science professor Antonio Contreras agrees with Holmes.

“I guess the CDE voters for Binay are now getting the message,” he told ABS-CBNnews.com.

He said some broadcasters are “very effective in painting him (Binay) as a crook in dramatic ways.”

“Alam mo naman ang CDE, yan ang nakikinig pa sa radio,” Contreras pointed out. (The CDE classes listen to radio.)

Tuazon believes Binay’s defense against mounting corruption issues was flawed.

While his lawyers, political allies and children tried to fend off charges raised in and out the Senate, “the effort was not consolidated”.

“The perception is, that he has been avoiding tackling the issues head on,” Tuazon said.

Poe, on the other hand, gained from the almost daily coverage of the emotional hearings on the Jan 21 Mamasapano carnage that claimed the lives of 44 elite cops.

She also oversaw hearings on issues important to the D class – the breakdown of the MRT system used daily by half a million Metro Manila residents.

Rivera said attempts to attack Poe using her status as a foundling backfired in a culture where abused underdogs are a favorite conversation topic.

ABC support

Strangely, as senators crowed about new evidence of alleged plunder, and details of bank accounts in the billions of pesos were leaked to media, Binay’s ABC supporters increased.

In fact, Binay has seen a steady increase in ABC believers since Pulse Asia’s November 2014 survey, when news reports were already full of details from the Senate probe spearheaded by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

From 17% last November, Binay’s ABC preference rating rose to 22% in March and to 29% in the latest survey conducted from May 30 to June 5.

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Others	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Don't Know	0.4	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Refused	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
None	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

014. Sa mga larang hawit itatanyag nila, sino ang inyong pinapaniling PRESIDENTE NG PILIPINAS kung ang atak ngayon ng 2016 ay gagaganapin ngayon at sila ay mga kandidato? Maaari kayong magbanggit ng iba pa na nasa sa listahan. (ONE ANSWER ONLY.)

Traditional wisdom, oft quoted by political pundits, assigns to the middle and upper classes the conscience vote, the high ground focused on issues like corruption and good governance.

In 2010 presidential candidate Benigno Aquino III used the slogans, “kung walang corrupt, walang mahirap” and “tuwid na daan” (straight path). It caught fire in the end days of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s scandal-plagued administration.

What could account for the rise in Binay’s ABC rating?

Contreras said, “the rise of Binay among the ABC is perhaps sign that the elites are getting irritated at the no-holds barred lynching of Binay.”

Political opinion-writer Beth Angsioco was also puzzled by the rise in Binay’s ABC ratings, “unless people in this cluster think that he is being unfairly crucified.”

But while allies of Roxas and the LP went all out against Binay, the biggest beneficiaries was not the Interior secretary, but Poe and Duterte, she pointed out.

Did Binay become the “protest choice” by anti-corruption advocates angered by the Aquino administration’s display of “double standards” on issues of governance?

Activist artist Mae Paner disagrees.

“I don’t see those disappointed in Aquino, on issues of transparency and fiscal abuse, and corruption by his aides, going for Binay,” Paner said. “They will be looking for an alternative to these two examples of trapo politics.”

Rivera, however, downplayed the increase in Binay’s ABC support, calling it “statistically insignificant.”

While the figures may seem substantial, he said the small representation greatly increases the margin of error, especially with the AB class, which is traditionally reluctant to participate in surveys. The demographic's margin of error, he pointed out, can be as high as 20%.

Tuazon said the ABC figures could be a reflection of the old Binay-Roxas polarity.

Both have long signaled their plans to contest the presidency, he pointed out. In contrast, the other perceived contenders – Poe, Duterte and Estrada – have not issued clear statements on their political ambitions.

“That (ABC) figure will dramatically change once the candidates come clean about their plans for 2016,” said Tuazon.

Roxas's gains not enough

Roxas, still the frontrunner where the ruling Liberal Party is concerned, improved his showing in the May survey, going up to 10% in a tie with former President Joseph Estrada, and after Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte with 15%.

While Roxas increased his share of Class D believers from 4% to 10%, Rivera said this was actually a very small increase if the margin of error is factored in.

Angsioco believes Roxas benefited from the reprieve granted to Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipino facing the death sentence in Indonesia and the death of Umbra Kato, a wanted terrorist,” and his visibility in the aftermath of the Kentex fire in Valenzuela.

“Conversely, Binay was perceived to have 'failed' to save Veloso and had nothing to do with military operations so perhaps popularity among class D-E dipped,” Angsioco said.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/focus/06/19/15/candidates-need-rethink-bobotante>

Grace Poe now leads both SWS, Pulse Asia

By RG Cruz, ABS-CBN News

Posted at 06/19/2015 9:48 AM | Updated as of 06/19/2015 7:50 PM

MANILA (UPDATED) - Senator Grace Poe is now the top choice for president in the 2016 elections based on the latest surveys of Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations (SWS).

SWS information officer Leo Laroza said, "It only means whether it's a list, top of mind, or no list provided, thinking of 2016, this is the person that comes to the mind of the majority. That's the common denominator. She is the top contender based on the data."

Poe showed the highest gain of all those surveyed by SWS, though considering the margin of error, Vice President Jejomar Binay's scores can be seen as steady. In the Pulse Asia survey, Poe went up to 30% against Binay's 22% from 14% and 29%, respectively, in a previous survey.

For Laroza, Poe's gains came largely out of the news coverage at the time of the survey. During the survey period, Poe was heavily covered by media, especially the questions raised over her qualifications for public office.

"I'm not a political analyst. I can only cite what happened in news. Poe gained 11% of preferential mentions compared to the first quarter while Binay declined 2 points. [Interior and Local Government] Secretary [Mar] Roxas gained 6 points. [Davao City] Mayor [Rodrigo] Duterte gained 5 points. The biggest gain is from Senator Grace Poe," he said.

"And you look at how much news is revolving around Senator Poe. Definitely it was captured... What happened was on June 2, Rep. Toby Tiangco went to the news using the issue of Poe's qualification, the issue on being natural-born citizen. It was fresh in the minds of people when we did the field survey. Right after that, Senator Grace had her reactions. She did her rounds a lot. This was very fresh in people's minds," he added.

The SWS survey, conducted from June 5 to 8, comes almost at the same period as the Pulse Asia survey which was polled from May 30 to June 5.

The June 2015 SWS survey used face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults nationwide -- 300 each in Metro Manila, Balance of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It has sampling error margins of 3% for national percentages, and 6% each for Metro Manila, Balance of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Unlike the Pulse Asia survey where respondents were asked to pick one, the SWS poll asked respondents to pick 3 possible successors to President Aquino.

Poe polled 42% in June, up 11 points from 31% in March and 21% in December. Binay is now at second place, losing 2 points at 34% in June from 36% in March and 37% in December.

Unlike the Pulse Asia survey which had Duterte at third place, the SWS poll showed Roxas at third place with 21% in June. This is, however, an improvement from his 15% in March and 19% in December.

Others in the poll are Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada (7% in June from 11% in March and 9% in December), former Senator Panfilo Lacson (7% in June from 1% in March and 2% in December), Senator Francis Escudero (4% in June from 8% in March and 9% in December), Senator Miriam Santiago (4% in June from 11% in March and 10% in December), Senator Bongbong Marcos (3% in June from 7% in March and 3% in December), and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano (2% in June from 4% in March and 3% in December).

In the Pulse Asia survey released Thursday, if the May 2016 elections were conducted during the survey period, Poe would emerge as the winner with 30% of Filipinos backing her candidacy.

Binay finds himself in second place with a 22% level of support for his presidential bid. The three other individuals with double-digit presidential voter preferences are Duterte (15%), Roxas (10%), and Estrada (10%).

On the other hand, single-digit figures are recorded by Santiago (6%), Cayetano (2%), and Lacson (2%).

Filipinos express virtually no support for the probable presidential bids of former Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Chairperson Camilo Sabio and OFW Party-List Rep. Roy Señeres.

Poe took NCR, Balance of Luzon, Visayas, and classes ABC and D. Binay kept a slim lead over Poe in Mindanao and Class E. Duterte, however, was the top candidate in Mindanao.

With this development, Poe now leads both the leading pollsters in the country.

'BINAY ADJUSTING'

Binay's head for media affairs, Joey Salgado said, the vice president is grateful for the continuous support of Filipinos.

"Despite the relentless attacks from his opponents, Vice President Jejomar Binay is thankful for the unwavering support as reflected in the SWS survey," he said.

"The campaign continues to learn from the ground and adjust its efforts accordingly. The Vice President respects the survey results. He sees them as barometers of the pulse of the public at a point in time. He will continue to listen to the people," said Salgado.

SWS president Mahar Mangahas is a cousin of Poe's father, the late cinema action king and 2004 presidential candidate, Fernando Poe Jr.

Poe, in a statement to media, said, "I am truly humbled by the latest SWS survey results. I am very grateful that more people appreciate the kind of public service that I strive to uphold - transparent, honest and efficient."

METHODOLOGY

For Center for People Empowerment in Governance's (CenPEG) Professor Temario Rivera, a political analyst, Binay's decline in Pulse Asia shows that respondents are not satisfied with how he has dealt with the corruption allegations against him.

"I don't think satisfactory yung sinasabi na puro pulitika lang yan. VP Binay or the family will have to come up with a different response that's more credible. Kung titingnan ang class D and E, malaki pa rin ang concerns sa poverty issues, and kung titingnan mo si VP Binay, yun ang kinu-cultivate niya talaga. Kahit ads niya mga poor constituents niya binibigyan ng libreng gamot sa ospital," Rivera said.

The SWS survey asked respondents to pick 3 candidates, while the Pulse Asia survey released Thursday asked respondents to pick their choice for president from a list.

Rivera raised doubts over the accuracy of SWS' methodology. He noted Pulse Asia's methodology more closely simulates election day -- when voters only pick one president.

"Yung Pulse Asia, ang advantage niyan is it's closer to the actual voting system, malinaw na iisa lang ang pipiliin mo. Yung pick 3, it may unnecessarily either provide us a measure of overestimation or underestimation," he explained.

"Halimbawa let's say sinama mo si Senator Grace, VP Binay at Mar Roxas, di malinaw kung may weighting system. In other words, yun bang first choice is given more weight? Kasi kung equal weighting ang binigay sa 3 choices, di ganun ka-accurate ang resulta," he said.

NO OFFICIAL LIST YET

Laroza, however, explained that their methodology really does not test any list as they are still waiting for the official list of candidates that will be released by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

He said any list being tested now is only for purposes of research and strategizing by the data users. He added this is merely a guide.

"In terms of accuracy, this is not the method of choosing a leader, but it can be a guide... and from standpoint of funders, the data users, this is a guide for them, a gauge on who are the people that come to mind," he said.

'A LOT CAN STILL HAPPEN'

As with surveys, Laroza emphasized these standings can still change, especially when the SWS changes its methodology after the certificates of candidacy (COCs) are filed.

"Like probably what happened with VP Binay -- he's been occupying the top -- the rankings can change," he said. "People can tell if you're doing a good job, but when it comes to question of who they will prefer as successor, that's an entirely different thing."

One factor will be President Aquino's endorsement. Laroza pointed out the scores of the lower ranked names are very close.

"A lot of things can still happen. We have yet to see President Aquino making pronouncements on who to endorse..."

As to how President Aquino's endorsement will actually affect the standings, that remains to be seen though it will depend on Aquino's own popularity.

"That will have an impact. We have data supporting that those satisfied with President would probably vote for THE person President will endorse... A public official, public figure with high trust and satisfaction can influence, has a tendency to convert votes," he said.

PNOY RECOVERS

Aquino's own net satisfaction rating appears to have [recovered](#) in the same SWS survey.

Aquino polled a net satisfaction rating of +30, which is almost thrice his +11 in March. This, however, is still lower than the +39 in December 2014, before the January 25, 2015 Mamaspano incident. Aquino polled his all time high in SWS of +67 in August 2012.

Aquino nevertheless remains to be in better shape at this time in his presidency than his predecessor.

"We call it a recovery. It's a bounce. Not his highest but given that the typical behavior of the net satisfaction ratings is to decline as elections approach, it's a natural tendency... What we thought was a downward trend was interrupted and he's just returned to the moderate level he enjoyed in previous quarters," said Laroza.

He explained Aquino's own bump is also due to news coverage of the President at the time of the survey.

"Since the survey was conducted from March to June, a lot of news, the 1st quarter was a bad time for the administration," he said, pertaining to the January 25 Mamasapano incident. "That one event has a lot of impact."

"Now the news focused on something a bit more positive, something that can help administration. That's foreign relations (stand against China), foreign relations always come well-rated or positively received... That probably contributed to the recovery of people's satisfaction," he said.

PNOY'S ENDORSEMENT

Some political analysts, however, pointed out that Aquino's endorsement is only as good as the resources that will be mobilized for the candidate to be endorsed.

Rivera said, "How strong would that be for a particular candidate? If we go by historical record and political culture, tingin ko di ganun kabigat ang endorsement ng any president."

Rivera pointed out Roxas, who placed 3rd in the SWS survey and 4th in the Pulse Asia survey, may already be using government resources in his bid for the presidency. Roxas has been going around the country attending to DILG agency projects.

He said Roxas may not be able to count on President Aquino's endorsement even if the chief executive said Roxas remains on top of his list of choices, as Aquino has been in discussions with Poe and soon, her preferred running mate, Senator Francis Escudero.

"Kung desidido ka na suportahan si Mar, why do you need to negotiate with non-party members?" he said.

Rivera noted that Aquino's endorsement of a non-LP member may complicate things for Roxas and give ammunition to those within the ruling party who are not supportive of Roxas.

'KISS OF DEATH'

Another CenPEG analyst, Bobby Tuazon, pointed out that not everyone endorsed by the chief executive has won, the latest example being Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, who only placed 4th in the 2010 elections after being endorsed by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Tuazon noted Aquino's own standing has declined and he may just give his endorsee a "kiss of death."

Rivera, meanwhile, noted that in the case of Poe, she may not need Aquino's endorsement. "Ultimately it's not endorsement that counts but yung personality ng kandidato."

Tuazon said Poe has appeared to be independent. "In the Mamasapano incident, you see her, in the report, she appeared to be independent of politics... The overarching factor is because she is a Poe."

Rivera said questions on Poe's experience may come up but that can be overcome.

"Definitely gagamitin ni VP Binay (lack of experience ni Grace). Leadership has many components. Experience is only one. Nandiyan yung personality, nandiyan ang ability to create an organization. The lack of experience did not work against Cory Aquino... Ang matinding sagot ni Cory, which parallels the response of Senator Grace, 'Oo nga may experience ka, may experience sa corruption, pinapangalandakan mo.'"

For Rivera, Poe will gain if the ruling party is split and Roxas pursues a presidential bid.

Tuazon noted that in the Philippines, political parties gravitate towards the candidates instead of having parties decide who will be the candidates in elections.

For Rivera, whoever consistently places high in the surveys will attract the supporters.

"Mar Roxas and VP Binay have their own network of support. 'Di ba VP Binay is close to MVP [Manny Pangilinan]? Mar has his own core of supporters to begin with... The moment mag-declare openly and assuming tuloy ang magandang survey results, ultimately mag-gravitate kay Senator Grace," he said.

Tuazon believes Aquino's endorsement may even divide the ruling party.

"If you depend on surveys, and endorsement will be weak, it might weaken or lead to division of the party, lalo na leaders who think there may be problems if and when Mar is declared the official LP candidate."

Rivera estimates that the cost of the 2016 presidential campaign will be P2 billion.

Tuazon believes one of Roxas' problems is his lack of a pro-poor image.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/06/19/15/42-pct-pinoys-wants-grace-poe-president-sws>

Senate performance, FPJ magic propping up Grace Poe —analysts

By [TINA PANGANIBAN-PEREZ](#), GMA News June 19, 2015

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/507018/news/nation/senate-performance-fpj-magic-propping-up-grace-poe-analysts>

Sen. Grace Poe's performance in the Senate and the opposition taking issue with her being a founding helped the first-termer take the lead in presidential preference surveys, political analysts said on Friday.

Prof. Bobby Tuazon, director for policy studies of the Center for People Empowerment and Governance (CenPEG), said her handling of the Senate hearings on the Mamasapano incident helped Poe improve her standing with the public.

"What strikes me is, for the first time, I think a relative newcomer in national politics has captured the leading trend sa voter preference. I refer, of course, to Sen. Grace Poe," Tuazon said.

Tuazon said he believes the trend favoring Poe will continue until October.

CenPEG chairman Dr. Temario Rivera cited Poe's "clean" image and her relationship with the late King of Philippine Movies, Fernando Poe Jr. or FPJ.

FPJ ran for the presidency in 2004 but then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was declared the winner. He filed an electoral protest but died later that year.

Rivera doesn't believe President Benigno Aquino III's endorsement will change the current standings unless the President mobilizes resources to prop up his chosen candidate.

"Hindi ganoon kabigat ang endorsement ng any President kasi iyong political culture natin is very personalistic and individualistic," Rivera said.

Both Rivera and Tuazon believe that if Aquino endorses Poe, the Liberal Party will find itself divided.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, Aquino's running mate in 2010, is the LP's presumptive standard-bearer.

Both analysts also said that Aquino's endorsement of Poe may also lead to a compromise that would have Roxas run instead for the Senate and later on go for the Senate Presidency. **-NB, GMA News**

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/507018/news/nation/senate-performance-fpj-magic-propping-up-grace-poe-analysts>

Mar Roxas' 'dependence' on PNoy endorsement may harm presidential bid – analyst

June 19, 2015 8:24pm
GMA News

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/507126/news/nation/mar-roxas-dependence-on-pnoy-endorsement-may-harm-presidential-bid-analyst>

With voters looking for independent-minded people in government, Interior Secretary Mar Roxas' "dependence" on President Benigno Aquino III's endorsement in 2016 may put him at a disadvantage, an analyst said.

At a forum on Friday, Professor Bobby Tuazon, director for Policy Studies of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG), said: "Even if he was one of the early birds, people might be uncomfortable with the fact that Mar Roxas is heavily dependent on President Aquino's blessing."

This is because voters now prefer "politically independent and strong" candidates, he said.

Roxas was initially going to run for the presidency in 2010, but stepped down to a vice-presidential bid to give way to Aquino, whose popularity soared after the death of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino.

According to Senate President Franklin Drilon, a Liberal Party vice chairman, [the announcement of the party's presidential candidate](#) will be done after Aquino's last State of the Nation Address in late July.

Roxas, presumed to be the party's standard-bearer for 2016, has seen slight increases in his ratings in surveys.

He stands at third place in the latest Social Weather Stations poll with 21 percent, a six-percent gain, while he's in fourth place in Pulse Asia results with 10 percent, also up by six percentage points.

However, he is running behind Senator Grace Poe and Vice President Jejomar Binay in the presidential surveys.

Poe, who is now ahead in the surveys, earlier confirmed that she met with Aquino, who did not make a formal offer for her to run under the administration slate but told her "[to be ready.](#)"

Uncertainty, 'kiss of death'

According to CenPEG board chair Professor Temario Rivera, these meetings pose an uncertainty on Roxas' possible bid, and an eventual endorsement of Poe may cause a divide in the party.

"May malaking problema si Mar because he's not even sure if the president will endorse him," he said. "Kinausap ni PNoy sina Grace Poe. If sigurado ka na kay Mar, your most loyal lieutenant, why are you still talking to others?"

He pointed out, however, that "by historical record and political culture," the president's endorsement -- while it may be helpful -- will not have much weight.

Rivera, former chair of the University of the Philippines' political science department, pointed out that as a whole, voters are "very personalistic and individualistic."

"The endorsement can affect (the campaign) if the incumbent president mobilizes resources for the candidate," he said, adding that it's partly what's being done with Roxas' projects as Interior secretary.

For his part, Tuazon -- former political science committee head of UP Manila -- even went on to say the president's endorsement could be a "proverbial kiss of death" for Roxas' bid, "with the fact that the credibility and popularity of Noynoy plunged significantly over the past months."

[Aquino's satisfaction rating has improved](#), according to the latest SWS poll, which showed it bounced back to a "good" +30, up by 10 percentage points from an all-time-low of +11 in March, about two months after the Mamasapano incident.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said this development "[will certainly bode well](#) for the candidate the president will endorse."

'Disconnect'

Rivera pointed out that aside from thinking about whether his affiliation with Aquino will affect his candidacy, Roxas should work on his "disconnect" with the voters, especially since majority look to a "pro-poor" presidential candidate.

He also noted that this should be settled this election because, "Parang last hurrah na ni Mar ito."

"Mar Roxas has a disconnect with the people. He has to watch out for that particular problem," he said.

Tuazon added that that the "[early campaigning" done by Roxas' mother](#), Judy Araneta-Roxas, is also a "troubling factor, compared with the fact that the preferred presidential candidate should be pro-poor.

"He should remove that. He should remove that particular point that he's more of a candidate for the rich," he said. — **JDS, GMA News**

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/507126/news/nation/mar-roxas-dependence-on-pnoy-endorsement-may-harm-presidential-bid-analyst>

VP Binay needs to change tack in answering corruption allegations – analyst

By [ROSE-AN JESSICA DIOQUINO](#), GMA News June 19, 2015

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/506878/news/nation/vp-binay-needs-to-change-tack-in-answering-corruption-allegations-analyst>

Vice President Jejomar Binay will have to change tack in defending himself against the corruption allegations being hurled against him and his family if he wants to regain the top spot in surveys

leading to the 2016 elections.

In a forum on Friday, Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG) board chair Temario Rivera said voters may not be satisfied with Binay's response that the allegations were part of a demolition job connected to his intention to run for president next year.

"Alam na natin 'yung continuous investigations and allegations... Baka hindi satisfactory sa voters ang explanation ni Binay na pulitika lang lahat ito," he said. "The family will have to come up with a different response that's more credible."

[In the latest Pulse Asia survey, Binay has fallen to second place with 22 percent support from Filipinos, down from March's 29 percent. He was behind Senator Grace Poe, who ranked first with 30 percent.](#)

[Results from the latest Social Weather Stations \(SWS\) survey also has Binay sliding down to number 2 with 34 percent compared to Poe's 42 percent.](#)

During the forum, Rivera noted the role of mass media in possibly influencing the perception of the public.

"Posibleng may epekto rin dahil very well covered 'yung investigation against Vice President Binay," he said, referring to the investigation conducted by the Senate blue ribbon subcommittee.

The subcommittee conducted a total of 21 hearings, which started off from the allegedly overpriced Makati City Hall Building building II, from September 2014 to May 2015.

Binay, who has publicly declared his intent to run for higher office in 2016, had refused to face the Senate investigation, saying it was part of a demolition job to ruin his chances of winning in 2016.

[Reacting to the Pulse Asia results on Thursday, Binay described it as "a wake-up call."](#) He added, however, that he remains "determined" to aspire for the betterment of the country.

In a separate statement on Friday, Joey Salgado, his head of media affairs, said, "The campaign continues to lean from the ground and adjust its efforts accordingly. The Vice President respects the survey results." —**KBK, GMA News**

More from: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/506878/news/nation/vp-binay-needs-to-change-tack-in-answering-corruption-allegations-analyst>

Palace: Integrity over ratings

June 19, 2015

by CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND BERNICE CAMILLE V. BAUZON REPORTERS

Manila Times

A prospective candidate's integrity is more important than his or her ranking in popularity surveys.

Malacañang on Friday made this statement as the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released its own presidential preference survey, which also showed Sen. Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares dislodging long-time front-runner Vice President Jejomar Binay from his perch.

Its deputy spokesman Abigail Valte said President Benigno Aquino 3rd will endorse somebody “who has the character to be able to continue the reforms that the President has started.”

“Surveys are always part of your changing political landscape as we mentioned, but... more important, the primary concern really for the President is who has the integrity,” Valte told reporters.

Pulse Asia, which released its survey results a day ahead of SWS, also showed Poe taking the lead.

Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas 2nd, the presumptive standard-bearer of the Liberal Party and Aquino’s running mate in the 2010 elections, continues to trail Poe and Binay.

Roxas placed 4th in the Pulse Asia survey and 3rd in the SWS poll.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is 3rd in the Pulse Asia survey.

The President has reportedly been convincing Poe to team up with Roxas in next year’s elections.

In the SWS survey, Poe notched 42 percent as against Binay’s 34 percent while 21 percent prefer Roxas.

Poe on Friday reiterated her statement that she was “truly humbled” by the latest SWS results.

“I am very grateful that more people appreciate the kind of public service that I strive to uphold—transparent, honest and efficient,” Poe said in a statement.

Binay’s camp, meanwhile, remains optimistic that the drop in his ratings would not affect his run for the presidency.

Also in a statement, Binay’s spokesman Joey Salgado said the Vice President is thankful for the unwavering support of the people as reflected in the SWS survey.

“The campaign continues to learn from the ground and adjust its efforts accordingly. The Vice President respects the survey results,” Salgado added.

He said Binay sees the surveys as barometers of the pulse of the public at a certain point.

“He will continue to listen to the people,” Salgado added.

Reacting to earlier Pulse Asia survey results, Binay’s camp said the development serves as a “wake-up call” for them. In the Pulse Asia survey, Binay scored 22 percent while Poe had 30 percent.

Backfire

The attempt of Binay's allies to get rid of Poe by casting doubt on her qualification backfired on the Vice President as shown in the latest survey results, political analyst Ramon Casiple told The Manila Times.

Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER), said he sees no other reason why Binay's ratings would dip that far other than the move of the United Nationalist Alliance to assail Poe's residency status.

He added that the residency issue is not a political issue but merely a question on her qualification to run for a higher post next year, which subject should have been left to the Commission on Elections and the courts to decide.

"Maybe some people got disappointed with [Binay] for raising that kind of issue against somebody who has not even expressed any intention to run in 2016," Casiple said. "These issues [citizenship and residency] are not like corruption issues which are very crucial to the people," he added.

Temario Rivera, former chairman of the University of the Philippines Department of Political Science, said Binay should answer corruption allegations against him if he wants to regain his spot in the popularity race.

Bobby Tuazon of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG) said Poe is not really a traditional politician and that the young people are looking for new leaders.

"We look for a President [who] will give national unity, [is] pro-poor and [who] has knowledge in government," Tuazon added.

WITH JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA AND IZA GABRIELLE IGLESIAS

'Masa' shifting from Binay to Poe: analyst

By Kathlyn dela Cruz, ABS-CBNnews.com

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<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/06/18/15/masa-shifting-binay-poe-analyst>

MANILA - More Filipinos in the lower socio-economic class now prefer Senator Grace Poe over Vice President Jejomar Binay as the country's next president.

Speaking to radio dzMM on Thursday, University of the Philippines (UP) political science professor Temario Rivera said the various corruption allegations against Vice President Jejomar Binay are now taking a toll on his presidential bid for 2016.

Rivera said Binay already seems to be losing hold of the lower socio-economic group, particularly class D, or the 'masa' which comprises 65% of the Filipino voters.

In the latest Pulse Asia [survey](#) on voters' presidential preference for the 2016 elections, Poe, who has not yet even declared her political plans, overtook Binay by 8-percentage points, with a rating of 30% compared to the vice president's 22%.

The survey, conducted from May 30 to June 5, also showed Poe taking the lead among voters in classes ABC (31% versus Binay's 29%) and D (31% versus Binay's 20%).

Binay only had a 1-percentage point lead over Poe in class E, with 26% compared to the senator's 25% rating. But since the survey has a margin of error of plus and minus 3%, the two are statistically tied among voters in the lowest socio-economic group.

'KULANG EH'

According to Rivera, Poe's 11-percentage point lead over Binay in class D shows that the poor are also not satisfied with the vice president's responses to the allegations of corruption and ill-gotten wealth against him and his family.

This, despite his projection of himself as "makamasa" or "pro-poor."

"Kahit itong mahihirap na botante ay lumalabas na parang hindi rin nasisiyahan sa eksplanasyon ng vice president tungkol sa mga alegasyon ng korupsiyon sa kanya," said Rivera.

Binay has refused to attend the hearings conducted by the Senate blue ribbon subcommittee, saying all accusations against him are politically motivated and meant to destroy his chances in the 2016 presidential elections.

"Pag ganun lang ang explanation mo, maraming mga tao ang hindi masisiyahan talaga. Kulang eh," Rivera said.

"Ang nakakabahala diyan kasi ang imaheng gustong ipalaganap ni vice president ay pro-poor siya, yung makamahirap. Pero yung response ng class D at class E kung saan nandiyan yung pinakamalaking bulk ng ating mahihirap ay hindi pabor kay vice president," he added.

He also believes the recent attacks of the camp of Binay, particularly of United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) interim president Toby Tiangco, against Poe regarding her qualifications for higher office next year backfired on Binay.

He said questions on Poe's residency and citizenship, with her being a foundling, may have even brought the people's sympathy toward the senator.

He noted that Filipinos usually side with the so-called "underdog." "Baka nga nakatulong pa eh," said Rivera.