



part **6**

surveys of other institutions validate the IPER study



**validate****Date Conducted**

IBON Foundation

2004 Feb 7-15

2003 Jan 6-12

PulseAsia<sup>INC.</sup>

2002 Nov 6-22

2002 July 13-29



2003 May 28-June 14

The Social Weather Stations (SWS), Pulse Asia and IBON Foundation conducted their own survey on charter change. The SWS conducted their survey on May 28 – June 14, 2003, the IBON foundation on January 6 – 12, 2003 and February 7 – 15, 2004 and Pulse Asia on July 13-29, 2002 and November 6-22, 2003 Below is a summary of each.

Survey/Study Question	Results	Number of Respondents
Idea of changing the constitution	Not In Favor - 47.30% In Favor - 17.49% Unsure - 35.21%	1315 respondents
Changing the form of government from presidential to parliamentary	Not In Favor - 47.45% In Favor - 17.41% Unsure - 35.13%	
Are you in favor of amending the 1987 constitution?"	No - 50.69% Yes - 26.38% Don't Know - 22.94%	436 respondents (workers, professionals, housewives, students, unemployed, small business owners)
	<b>More or less the same with the results during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2002</b> No - 56.88% Yes - 50.60%	
National Survey on Constitutional Change	Not right to amend the constitution- 58% Supportive of amendments-2%	1200 adult respondents
	<b>Regional Breakdown (Opposition To Chacha)</b> LUZON - 73% from 53% last quarter VISAYAS - 7%(Anti) 42%(Pro) MINDANAO - 52% from 32% last quarter	
	<b>Socio-economic class breakdown</b> ABC - 49% (anti) 51% - (pro) DE - 59%(anti) 41% - (pro)	
"Performance ratings of Pres. Gloria Arroyo on Constitutional Change Issues"	<b>Proper/right to change the constitution now?</b> NOT RIGHT - 64% RIGHT - 36%	
	<b>Net approval rating</b> NR: +31 R: +29	
"Federal system should be the centerpiece of charter change"	50% support the idea of creating regional governments compared to 42% in SWS November survey	
Presidential or Parliamentary?	72 % favor retention of presidential 28% favor parliamentary shift	
CONCON or CA?	70% for CONCON 28% for CA	



The survey of Pulse Asia in November 6 – 22, 2002 used a multistage probability sampling. One thousand two hundred respondents were selected nationwide with age ranging from 18 years old and above. The respondents were asked whether they feel it is right to change the constitution at this time. Among the 1002 respondents, 58% felt it not right to amend the constitution at this time while 42% were in favor of amendments.

There is a difference in the survey that Pulse Asia conducted in July 13 – 27 of the same year. Sixty four percent (64%) of the total respondents felt it not right to change the constitution during that time while 36% felt it right.

Another survey was conducted by the IBON Foundation in January 6 – 12, 2003 and February 7 – 15, 2004. The 2003 survey of IBON had 436 respondents selected from workers, professionals, housewives, students, unemployed and small business owners in the National Capital Region. When asked the question “are you in favor of amending the 1987 Constitution”, 51% answered NO while 26% answered YES. The remaining 23% of the respondents said that they DID NOT KNOW.

In a wider scope survey conducted by IBON, 47% said they were not in favor of Charter change while 17% said they were in favor. Thirty five percent (35%) were unsure of their position on charter change. This survey was conducted nationwide with 1,315 respondents.

The Social Weather Stations (SWS) conducts quarterly surveys on the issue of charter change. The main questions of the survey were on the following topics: knowledge of the Constitution; changing the Constitution now; whether there are provisions which should be changed; and what are these provisions; presidential versus parliamentary form of government; and the proposed shift to a federal system.

The Fourth Quarter 2002 Social Weather Survey was conducted from November 15 to December 2, 2002, with 1,200 people from around the country. Margin of error was at  $\pm 3\%$ . The quarterly surveys are part of continuing research, which indicates that the people, on the whole, are open to specific proposals for constitutional reform, but do not consider such changes as urgent.

Results of the last quarter of 2000 nationwide survey showed that four out of every five Filipinos or 79% said that there is no Constitutional provision, which should be changed. This portion of the population said there is no constitutional provision which needs to be changed while 21% said there are changes needed.

Only 14% of the respondents specified what provision/s should be changed. Most common answers were: 1) *tanggalin sa posisyon ang corrupt* or “remove the corrupt from office,” (1.4%); 2) “lower the prices of commodities” (0.7%); 3) *pamamalakad ng gobyerno* or “running of government” (0.6%); 4) and simply “labor” (0.4%)

Asked about their knowledge of the constitution, 21% of the respondents said they knew almost nothing about it, 54% said they knew a little, 20% called their knowledge partial but sufficient, and only 4% called their knowledge extensive.

The respondents were also asked if it was right to change the Constitution now and 22% said that it was right, 33% said that was not right, and 45% voluntarily said that they could not decide.



The IPER survey on people's view on charter change has something in common with the surveys of the other institutes. Almost all of the surveys show that more people disagree with changing the 1987 Constitution, thus, the IPER study on voters' view on charter change is validated. However, there are a few differences in the focus of the study, IPER did not limit its study to merely asking people if they favor constitutional change or not. The issue of changing the 1987 Constitution from the time of Fidel Ramos to the administration of President Arroyo has always encountered the disapproval of people. Thus, IPER put extra effort to determine why people disagree with charter change. Because of

this effort, the Institute learned that people are not totally against changing the Constitution but rather it is their lack of awareness on the issues that holds them back from agreeing with charter change.

The result of the study recommends giving ample time for citizen education on both the change process and the specific reforms before the decision on charter change is made. It also recommends ensuring the direct participation of people in the constitutional change process, and having an education campaign on the importance and role of the constitution in our political system while soliciting the support of the people for the process and for substantive constitutional reform.





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