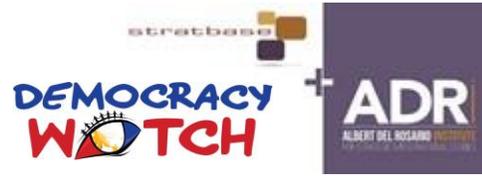


The Voice of the Filipino People: A Post-Elections Assessment

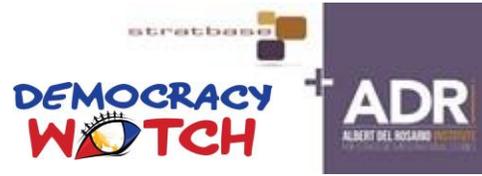
18 July 2022 | 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM



The Stratbase ADR Institute and Democracy Watch Philippines firmly believe that the electoral process in the country has taken leaps forward since it started automating its polls twelve years ago. Today, we have seen that Filipinos indeed believe in the value of automation – as Dr. Holmes shared with us, 89% of Filipinos are satisfied with the automated polling system, with 92% stating that using vote counting machines was easy and convenient for them. We at the Institute are glad that the country continues to implement election automation, as it yields great benefits for our electoral process. It no longer takes months to count the votes, electoral fraud – with the infamous *paghahabol ng boto* – can no longer occur. In just a matter of hours, we could already see who won the various national and local electoral races back in May.



In our commissioned study as well, we learned that 82% of Filipinos trust the results of the 2022 elections. They believe the results are accurate and credible. This cuts across location, age group, and other demographics. For Filipinos as well, 72% state that the main benefit of automation is faster results. Meanwhile, we have 89% of Filipinos saying that they would like to see automated voting continue in future elections. These are similar numbers to a survey our partner ran in 2019 and 2016, where 89% and 88% of citizens responded in favor of continuing automated elections, respectively.



Moreover, we have seen how civil society groups have also played a key role during our recent elections. We are grateful to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the Legal Network for Truthful Elections for their continued and tireless efforts in protecting the citizen's right to vote and for helping citizens in their casting of the ballot. For democracy to flourish in the country, it is essential that Filipinos can freely participate in voting and other government-related processes.



Today, through the studies presented, we have heard the voice of the Filipino people, and how it is important to continue to listen to what Filipinos have to say about our country. As we are in the beginning of a new administration, it is our hope that this current government also hears what citizens are saying and responds accordingly to public needs for the greater good of the country. We hope that President Marcos Jr and his team will address issues that matter to Filipinos, and in so doing move our country beyond the various crises we have experienced in over two years of this pandemic.



“Moving forward from a divisive election contest, a government that has a balanced and stable policy environment that aligns with public demand and social clamor will build the confidence and trust needed to push on and compete in what will hopefully be a post-pandemic economic swing to a prosperous and sustainable economic trajectory. At the end of the day, **governing beyond the crisis entails a new leadership that thinks and acts beyond politics.**”