

Filipinos are happy; survey says PH is third happiest country

By ROY MABASA

Even in the bleakest and dire moments of our history as a nation, Filipinos have shown their immense capacity for hope and happiness, the office of Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Martin Andanar said yesterday.

Reacting to the results of the 41st Annual Global End of the Year Survey conducted by the United States polling firm Gallup International, the PCO said the survey "merely reaffirms this well-known facet of the Filipino's character."

"While Gallup places the Philippines as the third happiest country in the world with a net score of +84 and two places behind Fiji, many Filipinos will agree

that we are the happiest people in the world despite our circumstances," the PCO chief said in a message sent to the Malacañang Press Corps.

In the coming months and years of this administration, the PCO secretary assured that the administration of President Duterte is determined to give "greater substance and a more solid foundation" for the Filipino people's happiness through a "booming economy, effective governance, enduring peace and justice."

In the latest Gallup International survey, 86 percent of Filipinos responded they were happy, two percent said they were unhappy, and 10 percent answered they were neither happy nor unhappy to the question, "In general, do you person-

ally feel very happy, happy, neither happy nor, unhappy or very unhappy about your life?"

At the top of the Gallup index is the island-country Fiji, which remained the happiest place in the world (+92) followed by Colombia (+87).

In 2016, the Philippines shared the second place with China with a net score of +79.

In March of 2017, the Philippines ranked 72nd out of the 155 countries polled in the World Happiness Report for 2017 conducted by the Sustainable Development Solution Network for the United Nations.

The year 2017 seemed to be a very challenging year for the Philippines and for the one-year-old Duterte administration following the devastation brought by the series of calamities that struck the Visayas and Mindanao islands, and the bloody five-month siege of Marawi City by the militant Maute group.

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