

3 Metro mayors to retain posts, survey shows

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IF elections were held today, three mayors in Metro Manila would be reelected while five others would face stiff competition, a survey showed.

Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina “Joy” Belmonte, Pasig City Mayor Victor Ma. Regis “Vico” Sotto and San Juan City Mayor Francisco “Francis” Zamora all got high approval ratings in the non-commissioned survey conducted by RP-Mission and Development Foundation Inc. (RPMDinc)

May 20 to May 30, 2021. The poll dubbed “NCR Mayor: Pulso ng Bayan 2022” covered eight cities: Quezon, Manila, Pasig, San Juan, Caloocan, Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Malabon.

The survey showed that Belmonte got 38 percent approval from “voters.” Her opponents Rafael “Raffy” Tulfo, former mayor Herbert “Bistek” Bautista, former Rep. Vincent “Bingbong” Crisologo and Anakalusugan party-list Rep. Michael “Mike” Defensor got 25, 13, 10 and 8 percent, respectively. In Pasig City, Sotto received a high rating of 67 percent, drubbing his perceived foe, former mayor Robert “Bobby” Eusebio, who got 28 percent.

Meanwhile, in San Juan, Zamora was ahead with 48 percent against Janella Ejercito Estrada, granddaughter of former president Joseph Estrada, who got 30 percent.

The chief executives in the other six cities were expected to face stiff competition.

A close fight is expected in Manila and Muntinlupa. In the former, since Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso is expected to seek higher post, Vice Mayor Maria Sheilah “Honey” Lacuna was favored with 46 percent against the 33 percent of a formidable opponent — Rep. Manuel “Manny” Lopez, son of former Manila mayor Mel Lopez.

In Muntinlupa City, the survey showed Rep. Rozzano “Ruffy” Biazon ahead with 57 percent against former mayor Aldrin San Pedro’s 23 percent.

In Caloocan City, outgoing Mayor Oscar “Oca” Malapitan’s son, Rep. Dale “Along” Malapitan, obtained 53 percent. He is up against Rep. Edgar “Egay” Erice who got 36 percent.

In Parañaque City, outgoing Mayor Edwin Olivarez’s brother, Rep. Eric Olivarez, garnered 35 percent, lower than former Rep. Gustavo “Gus” Tambunting’s 50 percent.

Malabon Rep. Federico “Ricky” Sandoval 2nd got 54 percent, while outgoing Mayor Antolin “Lenlen” Oreta’s brother, Councilor Jose Lorenzo “Enzo” Oreta received 29 percent.

Dr. Paul Martinez of RPMDinc said the face-to-face interviews covered 5,000 respondents in eight cities.

Quezon City had the highest number of respondents at 1,500.

Martinez said respondents were asked a direct question and presented with a list of possible candidates.

Perceived to have no contenders in 2022 are reelectionist mayors Marcelino “Marcy” Teodoro in Marikina City, Carmelita “Menchie” Abalos in Mandaluyong City, Lino Cayetano in Taguig City, Mar-Len Abigail “Abby” Binay in Makati City, Imelda “Emi” Calixto in Pasay City, Tobias “Toby” Tiangco in Navotas City, Imelda “Mel” Aguilar in Las Piñas and Miguel “Ike” Ponce 3rd in Pateros town.

Valenzuela City Mayor Rexlon Gatchalian is expected to run for congressman. Another Gatchalian is reportedly running unopposed for mayor.