

Mikey blames oil woes for GMA rating drop

By DELON PORCALLA

The latest plunge in the satisfaction rating of President Arroyo can be attributed to record highs in the price of crude oil in the world market, for which any leader would definitely take a beating, the lawmaker-son of Mrs. Arroyo said yesterday.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who heads the energy committee of the House of Representatives, pointed out that his mother is in a no-win situation, considering that oil prices have continued to rise.

Critics have attributed the rating drop – the lowest for any president since Ferdinand Marcos – to the many unresolved corruption and vote-rigging scandals that have plagued the Arroyo administration.

"That survey is not in order at this time. Any administration will be unfairly blamed

Mikey blames

From Page 1

for the rise in the prices of basic commodities. The truth of the matter is these can be blamed on the rise of crude oil in the world market," he said. Arroyo was referring to a Social Weather Stations survey released the other day that showed the President's net satisfaction rating dropping to a record low of -38, with a dissatisfaction rating of 60 percent against a satisfaction rating of 22 percent.

"Such a scenario is always beyond the control of any administration in any part of the world. Different world leaders are now experiencing this unfair dip in public perception rating. Let us pray they remain strong willed and encouraged to continue serving the people," he added.

Three more administration lawmakers also came to the defense of the President.

"Running a country is not like joining a popularity contest where one has to look good and be popular to win," said Isabela Rep. Rodito Albano III.

"The country's current situation is not easy for the President. In fact, this is harder than politics because at stake here is the economic survival of our nation and our people. What else is new? Sitting presidents worldwide are growing unpopular because of the spiraling prices of oil and food," Albano said.

"The only popular guys are perhaps those who are not yet at the helm of the presidency and can afford to make promises like Democratic candidate Barack Obama," he added.

Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan believes

that history would be kind to President Arroyo.

"History will bear her out as the President who did the right thing at the right time. Let's give the President the benefit of the doubt," he said.

"We should instead extend the support she needs to further strengthen her resolve to solve the country's problems," he added.

Domogan, vice chairman of the House committee on justice, likened the survey results to the typical reactions of spectators watching sports.

"It is very seldom that spectators agree with the moves made by the athlete. The bottom line is, the spectators only watch but it is the athlete who fights it out there and makes the move to win," he said.

Bulacan Rep. Ma. Victoria Sy-Alvarado said, "What the President needs now are mainly the people's help and cooperation, not discouragement as what the results of the surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations and The Center research firm did."

"The people are going through a lot and so is the President. While we think about the future of our family in the midst of all these difficulties, the President thinks about the welfare of a country with 92 million people. What could be harder than that?" she said.

"The President has been working herself to death 24/7 to enable the country to cope with our current circumstances, which, incidentally, are global by nature. Let's help her out and not bring her down," she added.