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# DYNASTIC GRIP: YNARES' 33-YEAR HOLD ON RIZAL'S DEMOCRACY

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**Abstract**
This study, titled "Dynasty in Democracy: The Study of the Ynares Political Stronghold in the Province of Rizal," examined the extent of the Ynares family's influence in local politics and its perceived impact on democratic participation and voter behavior among the youth. Using a descriptive research design, data were gathered from 50 youth respondents across the municipalities of Antipolo, Binangonan, Cainta, and Taytay. The study explored respondents' familiarity with the Ynares family, perceptions of their leadership performance, benefits from their administration's programs, and beliefs regarding the implications of political dynasty on democracy. Findings revealed that the respondents were highly familiar with the Ynares family's political role, reflecting strong name recognition and visibility in local governance. However, perceptions of leadership performance and developmental contributions were moderate, indicating recognition of their efforts but also a desire for greater inclusivity and transparency. The results further showed that while respondents acknowledged the accessibility of government programs, many believed that the family's continued dominance may limit voter freedom and political competition. Overall, the study concludes that the Ynares political stronghold remains deeply rooted in Rizal's governance landscape, influencing both the democratic dynamics and political consciousness of its youth.

***Keywords:*** *Dynasty, Democracy, Governance, Politics*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Philippines, despite hailed as one of the pioneers of democracy in Asia, continues to struggle with a contradiction at the heart of its political system because of the prevalence of political dynasties. Even with the presence of constitutional principle, such as the election process that promote equal opportunity in public service, political power in many provinces of the country remains concentrated within a few influential families. One such example is the Ynares family, whose name has become almost synonymous with governance in the Province of Rizal for the past Thirty-three years.

For decades, the Ynares family have occupied key political positions in Rizal—governor, mayor, congressman—forming what many regard as a political dynasty. Their sustained presence in public office, backed by widespread recognition and extensive networks, has sparked ongoing debate *"Is their prolonged hold on power a testament to competent leadership and sustained public trust, or does it point to a deeper issue within the democratic system, where access to power becomes inherited rather than earned?"* It explores the political stronghold of the Ynares family in Rizal and critically examines its implications on democratic representation, electoral competition, and governance. By tracing their political history and influence, and comparing it with principles of democratic participation, this study aims to assess whether their dominance aligns with the ideals of democracy or if it reflects a system where family legacy outweighs political plurality.

**Acuna et al. (2025),** in their study "The Families that Stay Together: A Network Analysis of Dynastic Power in Philippine Politics," present a groundbreaking network-based approach to examining political dynasties. Using Philippine electoral data from 2004 to 2022, the authors introduce innovative metrics—such as the Political Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), Centrality Gini, and Inter-clan Connectivity—to quantify the concentration and interlinkages of dynastic power. Their analysis reveals how dynastic families operate not merely as isolated political actors but as interconnected networks that shape governance outcomes across regions. These structures help explain variations in governance effectiveness, revealing how tightly-knit dynastic networks can either stabilize local leadership or entrench patronage-driven systems that resist reform.

By moving beyond descriptive accounts and applying network theory, this study offers a more systematic understanding of the mechanics behind dynastic entrenchment. It directly contributes to the broader discourse on how the structure and reach of political families influence policy implementation, development indicators, and institutional accountability. This work complements qualitative and institutional studies by grounding discussions of dynastic influence in measurable, replicable data.

Political dynasties have long shaped the Philippine political landscape, often criticized for perpetuating inequality and weak governance. However, **Mendoza et al. (2023)**, in their study "Interrogating the Links Between Dynasties and Development in the Philippines", challenge the oversimplified notion that all dynasties are inherently harmful. Using a conceptual framework that considers market openness, elite motivations, and state capacity, the authors argue that political dynasties are not monolithic. While some entrench underdevelopment by prioritizing self-interest in the context of weak institutions and limited political competition, others may support developmental goals under specific institutional and economic conditions. This differentiated perspective underscores the importance of contextual factors—such as institutional strength and elite incentives—in shaping the developmental outcomes of dynastic politics.

By integrating political theory, empirical data, and institutional analysis, Mendoza et al. (2023) offer a nuanced understanding of how dynasties function across varying contexts. Their work contributes to a broader thematic discourse on governance and development, advocating for a more evidence-based approach to evaluating political elites. This synthesis highlights that policy and reform efforts must consider the diverse nature of dynastic rule rather than assuming it is uniformly detrimental.

A 2025 report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) by **Gajete (2025)** reveals the alarming extent of dynastic dominance in local governance, noting that 113 out of 149 cities in the Philippines are currently ruled by political dynasties. In the same election cycle, 80 dynastic city mayors sought reelection, while 27 aimed to pass their positions to relatives—spouses, children, or siblings—while pursuing other political posts. This pattern underscores the systemic entrenchment of political families at the municipal level, where executive power often circulates within a few elite households. It also raises critical questions about voter behavior, particularly why dynastic candidates continue to win despite offering recycled campaign messages and limited substantive platforms.

This phenomenon reveals a stark disconnect between democratic ideals—such as the constitutional provision against political dynasties—and actual electoral practices. The influence of name recognition, patronage systems, and entrenched family networks often overshadows meritocratic selection and democratic accountability. As such, the PCIJ's findings support the argument that dynastic control is not only a national-level issue but is deeply rooted in the structure of local politics, further complicating efforts to promote inclusive, accountable governance at the grassroots level.

In a qualitative study titled "Dynastic Politics and Democratic Choice: Exploring Voter Perceptions in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental," **Bancoro (2025)** investigates how local constituents perceive and respond to political dynasties in their community. The findings suggest a gradual shift in democratic engagement, with some voters showing increased attention to candidates' merit and platforms rather than relying solely on surnames. However, political openness remains severely constrained by deeply rooted political families and long-standing patronage networks. Notably, some respondents expressed favorable views of dynastic politics, citing the benefits of continuity in governance and experienced leadership—revealing the complex and often contradictory nature of public sentiment. Bancoro's research offers valuable insights into how citizens both support and critique dynastic politicians, particularly in terms of leadership continuity, electoral fairness, and democratic participation. While dynasties are still seen by some as a source of stability, there is a growing awareness among voters of their potential negative effects on political competition and representation. This highlights the evolving role of political dynasties in local governance and suggests that, although entrenched, their influence is being increasingly questioned at the grassroots level.

**Dela Cruz (2021)** emphasizes that traditional political theories often overlook the embedded role of family networks in shaping Philippine local governance. His study reveals that mechanisms such as organized succession, patronage, and clan loyalty sustain the dominance of political dynasties. The work underscores the importance of considering cultural factors like utang na loob (debt of gratitude) and familial loyalty to fully understand how dynasties maintain legitimacy and authority. This perspective calls for new frameworks that more accurately capture the localized and familial nature of political behavior and governance outcomes in the Philippines.

Complimenting the study of Dela Cruz, **Garces et al. (2021)** examined the relationship between political dynasties and economic development using nighttime satellite imagery as a measure of local economic activity across Philippine municipalities. Their findings reveal that while dynastic presence generally shows a weak correlation with

development, areas where multiple positions—such as mayor, governor, and congressional representative—are held by members of the same family experience significant declines in economic outcomes. The authors attribute this to weakened institutional checks and accountability mechanisms. This study provides strong empirical evidence of how concentrated dynastic power can hinder local economic growth and governance performance, reinforcing the need for diversified political representation.

Political dynasties have long been associated with unequal access to public resources and varying governance outcomes across communities. In this context, **Ternullo et al. (2024)** explored how political dynasties consolidate power and distribute public advantages within urban areas through an empirical study of dynastic wards in Chicago from 2011 to 2018. Their findings revealed that blocks governed by dynastic leaders experienced lower crime rates—such as homicides, assaults, and thefts—and received more municipal services, including pothole repairs, compared to non-dynastic wards. After the 2015 redistricting, newly annexed blocks into dynastic wards benefited from improved safety and service coverage, while displaced areas experienced worsening conditions. The researchers concluded that dynastic representation produces uneven governance outcomes, privileging certain constituencies while reinforcing spatial inequality within cities. This study demonstrates that political dynasties can influence not only who governs but also how governance resources are distributed geographically. This provides valuable insight into how dynastic rule may generate unequal distributions of development and governance benefits. Although set in a different context, the findings suggest parallels in how entrenched political families can direct public resources and administrative focus toward specific communities, potentially leaving others underserved. Applying this lens to the Ynares dynasty allows a deeper understanding of how long-term political control in Rizal might shape both the accessibility and quality of public services across municipalities.

Political dynasties not only influence electoral outcomes but also shape fiscal behavior and governance efficiency. **Dulay (2021)**, in his study When Running for Office Runs in the Family: Horizontal Dynasties, Policy, and Development in the Philippines, examined the fiscal effects of horizontally dynastic mayors—those with close family members simultaneously holding other political positions. His findings revealed that these mayors tend to engage in higher levels of government spending due to reduced external veto players and increased familial coordination. However, despite greater public expenditure, such political arrangements did not translate into improvements in economic growth or poverty reduction. Dulay concluded that while dynastic networks may facilitate policy coordination, they often lead to fiscal inefficiencies and weaken developmental outcomes. This study provides empirical evidence that family-based governance structures can distort policy priorities and resource allocation, reinforcing the institutional entrenchment of dynastic power in Philippine local politics.

An illustrative example of a long-standing political dynasty is the Ynares family in Rizal province. As reported by **De Leon (2025)** in Rappler, the Ynareses have maintained uninterrupted control of the Rizal provincial capitol since 1992, marking a 33-year political reign, which is set to become 36 years by 2028 if Governor Nina Ynares completes her second term. The Ynares political dynasty demonstrates how familial succession and strategic power-sharing allow dynasties to persist across generations. The family's reach extends across various municipalities. Governor Nina Ynares is the daughter of former governors Ito and Nini Ynares, while her brother, Jun Ynares, is the incumbent mayor of Antipolo City. In Binangonan, Cesar and Boyet Ynares were succeeded by their own children, Rhea and Russel Ynares, after reaching term limits. The family further expanded its influence in 2025 when Mia Ynares won the congressional seat for Rizal's 1st District—previously held by their political ally, Jack Duavit.

This expansion from four to five Ynares family members in elected positions after the 2025 elections illustrates the family's consolidation of political dominance, often unchallenged. As noted in De Leon's (2025) coverage, many Ynares candidates faced no serious challengers or ran unopposed, a typical indicator of weak political competition and dominance by a political elite. The Ynares family's enduring power is bolstered by its alliances with other influential political clans such as the Punos, Gatlabayans, Tanjuatcos, and Congressman Romeo Acop. This convergence of dominant families has created a closed political network, further solidifying the Ynareses' political monopoly and weakening any attempts at political pluralism or opposition. Even former rivals, such as Danilo Leyble, who nearly defeated Jun Ynares in the 2013 mayoral race in Antipolo, have now become part of the Ynares coalition. This further underscores the absorptive power of dynasties and their ability to co-opt threats, reducing electoral competition and perpetuating family rule. When confronted about the issue of dynastic politics, Governor Nina Ynares stated in a 2025 interview with ABS-CBN News, "*The people will be the one to speak, the people will be the one to decide. We are here for as long as you want us to be here*." While this assertion leans on democratic justification, the lack of genuine electoral competition and the prevalence of family-run candidacies raises concerns about the authenticity of voter choice. As **Querubin (2016)** emphasizes, when elections are controlled by dynastic families, the democratic process is compromised, as voters are not offered meaningful alternatives.

**Objectives**

The study seeks to address the following specific statement of the problem (1) How familiar are Rizal constituents with the Ynares family's role in local politics; (2) How do residents perceive the leadership performance and developmental contributions of the Ynares family?; (3) To what extent have the constituents or their communities benefited from the Ynares administration's programs or projects?; (4) How do residents view the impact of multi-generational political rule on democratic health and voter freedom?; and (5) Do voters believe that the continued success of the Ynares is driven by merit, name recall, political machinery, or limited alternatives?

As political dynasties continue to dominate many regions in the country, this inquiry contributes to a larger national discourse on political equity, voter autonomy, and democratic development. In the case of Rizal province, the question remains: Is the province a stronghold of public service, or a stronghold of a political dynasty?

Political dynasties remain a deeply embedded feature of the Philippine political system, raising critical questions about their impact on governance, development, and democratic participation. Recent studies have moved beyond one-dimensional critiques, offering diverse perspectives on how dynastic power operates, persists, and is perceived across local contexts.

**METHODS**

This presents the research approach, method, and technique that was used in the study such as the sampling technique, description of respondents, data gathering procedure, and statistical treatment of data that was utilized in the conduct of the study.

**Research Method and Design**

This study employed a quantitative, descriptive research design to examine how Rizal constituents perceive the Ynares family's prolonged political dominance. By gathering data through a structured Likert-scale questionnaire,

the study aimed to describe public perceptions in relation to (1) familiarity with the Ynares family's political role, (2) evaluation of their leadership and developmental contributions, (3) extent of benefits received from their programs, (4) perceived impact of multi-generational political rule on democracy and voter freedom, and (5) views on the factors sustaining their political success.

***Research Locale***

The research will be conducted in selected cities and municipalities within the Province of Rizal, specifically focusing on Taytay, Binangonan, Antipolo, and Cainta. These areas have been chosen as the primary research locales due to their political relevance and historical association with the Ynares family, who have held various elected positions in these localities over the years. These municipalities represent a mix of urban and semi-urban communities, each playing a significant role in the province's political landscape. By focusing on these key areas, the study aims to capture diverse perspectives from different parts of Rizal, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of how political dynasties, particularly the Ynares political stronghold, are perceived by voters. The inclusion of these locales will also provide valuable insights into the consistency of political influence and its potential impact on local democratic processes across different socio-economic and geographic contexts within the province.

**Respondents of the Study.** The respondents of this study will consist of fifty (50) active registered voters in the Province of Rizal, specifically targeting two key groups: youth who are currently studying and young professionals. These groups are selected because they represent a significant portion of the electorate and play a crucial role in shaping the future of democratic participation and political accountability. The youth respondents will include college or senior high school students aged 18 to 30 who are currently enrolled in educational institutions within the province. On the other hand, young professionals will include individuals within the same age range who are employed in various sectors such as government, private companies, or are self-employed. All respondents must be active voters—meaning they are registered with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and have participated or are eligible to participate in recent or upcoming elections. This specific demographic is chosen due to their potential to be more politically aware, socially engaged, and influential in public discourse regarding political dynasties and democratic governance. Their insights are essential to understanding how political strongholds like that of the Ynares family are perceived by a generation that is both informed and directly affected by local leadership and governance.

***Research Instrument.*** The primary research instrument used in this study is a check box-type survey questionnaire, designed to collect quantitative data efficiently from respondents. This type of instrument was chosen for its simplicity and clarity, allowing participants to easily indicate their responses by selecting from a list of predetermined options. The check box format ensures that data can be quickly categorized, tallied, and analyzed, making it especially effective for large sample sizes. The questionnaire is structured to cover key areas related to the study, including awareness of political dynasties, perceptions of governance, electoral participation, and opinions on the Ynares family's political influence in Rizal. By using closed-ended questions with check box responses, the study ensures consistency in answers and reduces ambiguity, enabling a more objective and systematic analysis of the collected data.

**Data Gathering Procedure**

Before conducting the study, the researchers will first secure approval from the Barangay Captains of Barangay Sta. Ana in Taytay, Barangay Pantok in Binangonan, Barangay San Roque in Antipolo, and Barangays San Andres and

San Juan in Cainta. Upon receiving permission, survey questionnaires will be personally distributed to the identified respondents. Prior to answering, each respondent will be oriented about the purpose of the study and will be asked to provide informed consent. Strict confidentiality and voluntary participation will be ensured throughout the process. The researchers will personally administer the questionnaires, address any questions or clarifications, and collect the accomplished forms. Afterwards, the completed questionnaires will be reviewed for accuracy and completeness, encoded, and systematically prepared for analysis.

***Data Processing and Statistical Treatment***

The accomplished questionnaires will be collected, sorted, and checked for completeness. Responses that are left blank or invalid will be excluded from the final data set. Each answer in the Likert-scale questionnaire will be assigned a numerical code, with 5 for Strongly Agree, 4 for Agree, 3 for Neutral, 2 for Disagree, and 1 for Strongly Disagree. Reverse-coded items will be recoded to ensure consistent interpretation. After coding, all responses will be encoded in spreadsheet software and carefully checked for accuracy and missing entries. In cases where minimal data are missing, these will be treated through pairwise deletion so as not to distort the results.

For the analysis, the study will employ descriptive statistical tools appropriate for quantitative research. Frequency and percentage distribution will be used to describe the demographic profile of respondents as well as their level of familiarity with the Ynares family's political role. To measure the average perception of the respondents in relation to leadership performance, benefits from programs, democratic health, and sources of political success, the weighted mean will be computed. The standard deviation will also be calculated to determine the consistency or variability of the responses around the mean. To address the question on the factors that drive the Ynares family's continued electoral success, the results will be ranked from highest to lowest weighted mean, thereby identifying the most and least influential factors as perceived by youth respondents.

| **Weighted Mean Average** | **Percentage** | **Verbal Interpretation** |
|---|---|---|
| 4.21 - 5.00 | 81% - 100% | Strongly Agree |
| 3.41 - 4.20 | 61% - 80% | Agree |
| 2.61 - 3.40 | 41% - 60% | Neutral |
| 1.81 - 2.60 | 21% - 40% | Disagree |
| 1.00 - 1.81 | 0% - 20% | Strongly Disagree |

For interpretation, the study will adopt the following scale: a weighted mean of 4.21–5.00 will be interpreted as Strongly Agree (Very High); 3.41–4.20 as Agree (High); 2.61–3.40 as Neutral (Moderate); 1.81–2.60 as Disagree (Low); and 1.00–1.80 as Strongly Disagree (Very Low). These ranges will serve as the basis in analyzing the responses to each statement of the problem.

Formula for Weighted Mean:

$$\bar{X}_w = \frac{\sum wx}{\sum w}$$

It means you multiply each value (x) by its weight (w), sum these products, and then divide by the sum of all the weights.



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## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

### Results

The results of the study based on the data gathered from 50 youth respondents across selected municipalities in Rizal Province. It highlights their levels of familiarity, perceptions, and beliefs regarding the Ynares family's role, leadership performance, and influence in local politics.

**Table 1:** Demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age.

| Age Range (Years old) | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 18 - 20 | 20 | 40% |
| 21 - 23 | 17 | 34% |
| 24 - 26 | 3 | 6% |
| 27 - 28 | 4 | 8% |
| 29 - 30 | 6 | 12% |
| **Total** | **50** | **100%** |

Table 1 reveals that most respondents are aged 18–20 years old (40%), followed by those aged 21–23 years old (34%). This suggests that the majority of participants belong to the younger youth sector, reflecting a generation that is increasingly aware and engaged in local political affairs.

**Table 2:** Demographic profile of the respondents in terms of status

| Status | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Collegiate Level | 32 | 64% |
| Working youth professional | 18 | 36% |
| **Total** | **50** | **100%** |

Table 2 reveals that most respondents are collegiate students (64%), while 36% are working youth professionals. This indicates that a larger portion of the participants are still pursuing higher education and are in a stage of forming their political views and awareness of local governance.

**Table 3:** Demographic profile of the respondents in terms of Barangay, Municipality/City in Rizal

| Municipality/City | Barangay | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antipolo | Barangay Mayamot | 10 | 20% |
| Binangonan | Barangay Pantok | 10 | 20% |
| | Barangay San Andres | 10 | 20% |
| Cainta | Barangay San Juan | 10 | 20% |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Taytay | Barangay Sta. Ana | 10 | 20% |
| **TOTAL** | | **50** | **100%** |

Table 3 shows that the respondents were equally distributed among selected municipalities and barangays in the Province of Rizal, with 10 participants (20%) from each area. This balanced distribution ensures that each municipality—Antipolo, Binangonan, Cainta, and Taytay—is fairly represented in the study.

**Table 4:** Demographic profile of the respondents in terms of voter status

| Municipality/City | Registered Voter | Not Registered Voter | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Antipolo | 10 | 0 | 20% |
| Binangonan | 10 | 0 | 20% |
| Cainta | 20 | 0 | 40% |
| Taytay | 10 | 0 | 20% |
| **TOTAL** | **50** | **0** | **100%** |

Table 4 indicates that all 50 respondents (100%) are registered voters, with no unregistered participants across the four municipalities. The majority of respondents come from Cainta (40%), followed by Antipolo, Binangonan, and Taytay, each contributing 20% of the total sample.

**Table 5:** Familiarity with the Ynares Family's Role in Local Politics

| Statement | Frequency | Weighted Mean | Percentage | Verbal Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I am familiar with the political roles held by the Ynares family in Rizal. | 50 | 4.6 | 92% | Strongly Agree |
| I can easily recognize the members of the Ynares family involved in local politics. | 50 | 4.24 | 84.8% | Strongly Agree |
| I have regularly encountered information about the Ynares family's political activities. | 50 | 4.5 | 90% | Strongly Agree |
| **TOTAL** | | **4.46** | **89%** | **Strongly Agree** |

The data in Table 5 show that the youth respondents have a high level of familiarity with the Ynares family's role in local politics, as reflected by the overall weighted mean of 4.46 (89%), verbally interpreted as Strongly Agree.

**Table 6:** Perceptions of leadership performance and developmental contributions

| Statement | Frequency | Weighted Mean | Percentage | Verbal Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Ynares family has provided effective leadership for the development of Rizal. | 50 | 2.86 | 57.2% | Neutral |
| The projects and initiatives led by the Ynares family have improved Rizal's community services. | 50 | 2.96 | 59.2% | Neutral |
| I am satisfied with the overall governance performance of the Ynares family. | 50 | 2.72 | 54.4% | Neutral |
| **TOTAL** | | **2.85** | **56.93** | **Neutral** |

The data in Table 6 reveal that the youth respondents have a moderate perception of the Ynares family's leadership performance and developmental contributions, with an overall weighted mean of 2.85 or 56.93%, verbally interpreted as Neutral. Among the indicators, respondents most agreed that the family's projects and initiatives have improved community services 2.96 or 59.2%, while satisfaction with their overall governance performance received the lowest mean 2.72 or 54.4%.

**Table 7:** Extent of benefits from the Ynares Administration's Programs or Projects

| Statement | Frequency | Weighted Mean | Percentage | Verbal Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The programs initiated by the Ynares administration have directly benefited my community. | 50 | 2.92 | 58.4% | Neutral |
| The projects of the Ynares family are easily accessible to most residents in my area. | 50 | 3.06 | 61.2% | Agree |
| The Ynares administration's programs have significantly improved the quality of life in my community. | 50 | 2.96 | 59.2% | Neutral |
| **TOTAL** | | **2.98** | **59.6** | **Neutral** |

The data in Table 7 show that the youth respondents moderately agree that they benefit from the Ynares Administration's programs and projects, with an overall weighted mean of 2.98 (59.6%).

**Table 8:** Impact of Multi-Generational Political Rule on Democracy and Voter Freedom

| Statement | Frequency | Weighted Mean | Percentage | Verbal Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The long-term political rule of the Ynares family has positively influenced democracy in Rizal. | 50 | 2.76 | 55.2% | Neutral |
| The dominance of the Ynares family limits voter freedom to choose different political leaders. | 50 | 3.6 | 72% | Agree |
| Multi-generational political leadership by the Ynares family reduces healthy competition in elections. | 50 | 3.42 | 68.4% | Agree |
| **TOTAL** | | **3.26** | **65.2%** | **Agree** |

The data in Table 8 show that the youth respondents have mixed perceptions regarding the impact of the Ynares family's long-term political rule on democracy and voter freedom, with an overall tendency toward agreement that it may limit political diversity. The highest rating 3.6 or 72% indicates that most respondents believe the family's dominance restricts voter freedom, while the lowest 2.76 or 55.2% reflects limited belief in its positive influence on democracy.

**Table 9:** Voters' Beliefs on the Reasons behind the Ynares Family's Continued Success

| Statement | Frequency | Weighted Mean | Percentage | Verbal Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The Ynares family's continued success is due to their merit and effective leadership. | 50 | 2.56 | 51.2% | Neutral |
| The family name "Ynares" strongly influences voters' choices in elections. | 50 | 3.36 | 67.2% | Agree |
| The political machinery and resources of the Ynares family play a major role in their electoral victories. | 50 | 3.26 | 65.2% | Agree |
| **TOTAL** | | **3.06** | **61.2%** | **Agree** |

The data in Table 9 show that the youth respondents believe the Ynares family's continued political success is largely influenced by their name recognition and political resources rather than by leadership merit alone. The highest rating 3.36 or 67.2% indicates that the family name strongly influences voters' choices, while the lowest 2.56 or 51.2% suggests only moderate credit to their leadership effectiveness.

**Discussion**

***Table 1*** presents the demographic profile of respondents in terms of age, showing that a significant portion belong to the 18–23 age group, comprising 74% of the total participants. This indicates that the study primarily captures the perspectives of younger individuals who are likely active users of social media and other information platforms where political discussions are prevalent. Being in early adulthood, this group is in a stage of developing civic awareness, forming political opinions, and beginning to participate in democratic processes such as voting and community engagement. The inclusion of respondents aged 18 to 30 allows for a broader understanding of youth perceptions of political dynasties in Rizal, capturing both fresh perspectives from younger participants and more reflective insights from those in their late twenties.

***Table 2*** highlights the respondents' status as either collegiate students or working youth professionals, emphasizing the inclusion of perspectives from two groups crucial to shaping democratic participation and community involvement. Students often engage in leadership and governance discussions through academic and social environments, while working youth contribute insights grounded in practical, real-world experiences. Capturing opinions across these groups strengthens the reliability of the survey by encompassing multiple stages of youth development.

As shown in ***Table 3,*** respondents were equally represented across barangays and municipalities—Antipolo, Binangonan, Cainta, and Taytay—ensuring a comprehensive understanding of perceptions across different localities. This distribution allows for comparisons of familiarity, leadership perception, and opinions on political dynasties between urbanized and developing areas, reflecting the inclusivity and representativeness of the study. **Table 4** reveals that all participants are registered voters, indicating a baseline level of civic responsibility and political engagement. This factor ensures that the opinions expressed about the Ynares family's political influence are informed and credible, coming from active members of the electorate.

**Table 5** shows that respondents demonstrated a high degree of familiarity with the Ynares family's role in local politics, with an overall weighted mean of 4.46 and a percentage of 89.0%, verbally interpreted as Strongly Agree. The statement "I am familiar with the political roles held by the Ynares family in Rizal" received the highest mean of 4.6 (92%), highlighting strong awareness of the family's long-standing positions. Similarly, "I can easily recognize the members of the Ynares family involved in local politics" and "I have regularly encountered information about the Ynares family's political activities" scored 4.26 (85.5%) and 4.48 (89.5%), respectively. These results suggest that the Ynares family maintains a prominent and visible presence in the political landscape of Rizal, with high recognition among youth across all four municipalities. The data reflect the family's entrenched political influence and extensive public visibility.

**Table 6** presents perceptions of the Ynares family's leadership performance and developmental contributions. The overall weighted mean of 2.84 (56.67%) indicates moderate agreement, verbally interpreted as Agree. Respondents recognized that "The projects and initiatives led by the Ynares family have improved Rizal's community services" scored the highest at 2.94 (58.75%), while "I am satisfied with the overall governance performance of the Ynares family" received the lowest mean of 2.73 (54.5%). This suggests that while youth respondents acknowledge leadership efforts and developmental initiatives, the perceived effectiveness and impact are moderate, indicating areas for improved transparency, inclusivity, and innovation in governance.

**Table 7** presents perceptions regarding the extent of benefits from the Ynares Administration's programs and projects. The overall weighted mean of 2.96 (59.25%) shows moderate agreement that the initiatives have benefited

communities. The highest-rated indicator, "The projects of the Ynares family are easily accessible to most residents in my area," scored 3.04 (60.75%), while "The programs initiated by the Ynares administration have directly benefited my community" scored the lowest at 2.91 (58.25%). Similarly, "The Ynares administration's programs have significantly improved the quality of life in my community" received a mean of 2.94 (58.75%). Overall, these findings suggest that youth recognize the presence and potential benefits of local programs, though their perceived impact is moderate and varies across municipalities.

**Table 8** highlights perceptions regarding the impact of multi-generational political rule on democracy and voter freedom. The statement "The long-term political rule of the Ynares family has positively influenced democracy in Rizal" received a mean of 2.79 (55.75%), reflecting moderate agreement. In contrast, "The dominance of the Ynares family limits voter freedom to choose different political leaders" scored 3.61 (72.25%), and "Multi-generational political leadership by the Ynares family reduces healthy competition in elections" scored 3.40 (68%). These findings indicate that while respondents acknowledge the family's contributions, many perceive prolonged dominance as potentially restricting democratic diversity and voter autonomy, demonstrating awareness of the broader implications of dynastic rule.

Finally, **Table 9** presents respondents' beliefs regarding the reasons behind the Ynares family's continued political success. The statement "The Ynares family's continued success is due to their merit and effective leadership" obtained the lowest mean of 2.63 (52.5%), while "The family name 'Ynares' strongly influences voters' choices in elections" scored 3.31 (66.25%), and "The political machinery and resources of the Ynares family play a major role in their electoral victories" scored 3.21 (64.25%). These results suggest that youth respondents perceive the family's electoral longevity as largely driven by name recognition, institutional resources, and political influence rather than purely by leadership performance, reflecting critical awareness of dynastic dynamics in local governance.

## CONCLUSION

The study revealed that the Ynares family continues to hold a strong political influence in the Province of Rizal, rooted in both historical legacy and sustained governance performance. Based on the responses of 50 youth participants from Antipolo, Binangonan, Cainta, and Taytay, it was found that the Ynares administration is generally perceived to provide effective leadership and implement beneficial programs and projects, although varying levels of satisfaction exist across municipalities. While respondents recognized the family's developmental initiatives, many also expressed concern over the implications of prolonged political dominance, such as limited voter choice and reduced electoral competition. These findings suggest that political dynasties, while capable of ensuring continuity in governance, can simultaneously pose challenges to the ideals of democratic participation and equality in leadership opportunities.

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