## Shinzo Abe's plummeting popularity Sep 26, 2006: Shinzo Abe, 52, becomes Japan's youngest prime minister, with popularity rating hovering around 70% % 70 Nov: Approval. rating plummets 10 points after Abe Shinzo Abe re-admits 11 rebel MPs into his Liberal 60 Democratic Party. May 28: Agriculture Minister Toshikatsu Rebels had opposed Matsuoka kills himself amid allegations government's lynchpin that he misused public money postal privatisation plan Dec: Administrative Reform 50 Minister Genichiro Sata steps down in scandal over misuse of political funds Jan: Health Minister Hakuo Yanagisawa alienates 40 Japanese women by referring to them as "breeding machines" Mar: Abe denies Japan forced as many as 200,000 women into sexual slavery during World War II 30 Jun: Government admits losing 50 million pension records Jul 3: Defence Minister Fumio Kyuma resigns following public outcry over his comments that U.S. nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 were justified 20 Abe's popularity falls to 25.7%. Ruling coalition suffers severe defeat in parliamentary elections to upper house Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Polls by Kyodo, Jiji Press, Yomiuri and Mainichi newspapers © GRAPHIC NEWS Picture: AP