

Date Printed: 04/23/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_71
Tab Number: 27
Document Title: The Party-List System
Document Date: 1998
Document Country: Philippines
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE01637



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THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM

A SYNOPSIS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

What is it?

Who is eligible?

How to participate?



WHAT IS THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM?

The Party-List System provides an improved method for small, political parties and marginalized and underrepresented sectors to obtain possible representation in the House of Representatives.

Twenty percent (20%) of the seats in the House is reserved for party-list elected representatives. For 1998, there will be 51 seats for party-list, sectoral representatives.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Instead of individual candidates, only registered, organized groups may participate:

- Sectoral parties
- Sectoral organizations
- Political Parties, and
- Coalitions.

WHAT IS A SECTORAL PARTY OR SECTORAL ORGANIZATION?

A *sectoral party* refers to an organized group of citizens whose principal advocacy pertains to the special interests and concerns of one of the following sectors: labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals.

A *sectoral organization* refers to a group of citizens or a coalition of groups of citizens bound together by similar physical attributes or characteristics, or by employment, interests or concerns.

A *coalition* is an aggrupation of duly registered national, regional, sectoral parties or organizations for political and/or election purposes.

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

A *political party* is an organized group of citizens pursuing the same ideology, political ideas and principles for the general conduct of the government. It may be:

- A *national party* when its constituency is spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the regions, or.
- A *regional party* when its constituency is spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the cities and provinces comprising a region.

HOW CAN MY ORGANIZATION QUALIFY?

An organization may register by filing a petition under oath with Comelec stating its desire to participate in the Party-List System. A sample petition may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission, Comelec, Manila.

The petition for registration should have supporting documentation:

- Constitution and by-laws
- Platform or program of government
- List of officers

- Coalition agreement
- Other relevant information
- Filing fee and research fee

WHERE DO WE APPLY TO REGISTER?

An authorized representative of the political or sectoral entity may submit the petition.

If the petition is from an entity with a national constituency, it should be filed with the Clerk of the Commission, Comelec, Manila.

If the entity is regional, the petition should be filed with the Office of the Regional Election Director.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The filing fee is one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) plus a research fee of twenty pesos (P20.00).

In addition, the entity filing the petition must pay the cost to publish the petition in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. Comelec will select the newspapers and determine the publication date.

WHEN IS THE FIRST PARTY-LIST ELECTION?

On May 11, 1998, simultaneous with the national and local elections. For this first time only, the first five (5) major political parties (on the basis of party representation in the House of Representatives at the start of the Tenth Congress) may not participate in the Party-List System.

IS THERE A SPECIFIED TIME TO REGISTER?

November 12, 1997

The petition must be filed not later than one hundred eighty (180) days before the election. To qualify for the May 11, 1998 elections, the petition must be filed not later than November 12, 1997.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PETITION IS FILED?

The Comelec office concerned determines if the petition is in due form and substance and verifies the accuracy of the information. Within seven (7) days it submits the petition together with its findings and recommendations to the commission.

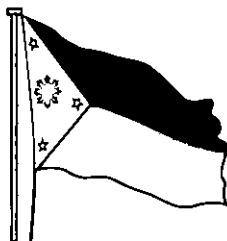
The Commission, after due notice and hearing, resolves the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date it was submitted for decision but not later than ninety (90) days before election day.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE KNOW?

Comelec may, on its own, or upon verified complaint of any interested party, refuse or cancel, after due notice and hearing, the registration of any entity. Comelec Res. No. 2847 contains all detailed information.

HOW WILL VOTERS KNOW WHICH ENTITIES ARE PARTICIPATING?

Comelec will prepare and publish a certified list of entities qualified to participate. This certified list will be posted in all polling places on election day.



HOW MAY A VOTER VOTE FOR PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES?

Every voter will be entitled to two (2) votes for the House of Representatives— one vote for the district representative, and the second vote for a party-list organization, party or coalition.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

This brochure is intended to provide basic information for organizations that may be qualified to participate in the Party-List System. More detailed information may be obtained by calling the Comelec Hotline.

COMELEC HOTLINE

527-52-02 • 527-52-11 • 527-52-27 • 527-52-90
527-59-13 • 527-18-94 • 527-07-22 and
527-61-11 loc. 2101 & 2103



Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Elections
Intramuros, Manila