

SIX CENTURIES OF POLITICAL DYNASTIES:

Why the Philippines will Forever be Ruled by Political Clans?

Center for People Empowerment in Governance

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POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

- (2010 elections) There are 178 dominant political dynasties today (excluding those in local areas); of these 100 or 56% are old elites and 78 or 44% are new elites emerging from Edsa 1 (1986) and the 1987 post-Marcos elections;
- House of Representatives: From 64% dominance by political families, to 68% (or 115 families) after May 2010. Higher in the Senate: 80% of the current 23 members;
- Party-list system (15th Congress): 52 or 91% of the 56 seats held by millionaires and multi-millionaires; 10 nominees come from political clans



POLITICAL DYNASTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

- 94% of the provinces (73 out of total 80) have political dynasties ; average number of political families per province is 2.31
- Single family monopoly in 6 provinces (25 years): Ynares (Rizal), Ortega (La Union), Dimaporo (Lanao del Norte), Villafuerte (Camarines Sur), Petilla (Leyte), and Plaza (Agusan del Sur)
- Same period: 19 families exclusively controlled elections in their congressional districts.
- (2010) 17 provinces had political families with governors and representatives; eight of these had the same family as governor and lone congressional district
- (2007) 40% of 79 provinces had congressman and governor related



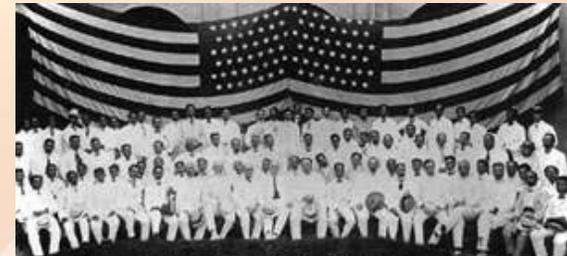
HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL EXPANSION OF DYNASTIES

- Members of the lower House expand by having their kin elected as district representatives in other provinces;
- While those in local government units (LGUs) such as governors and mayors have blood relatives as vice-mayors and councilors or in Congress;
- Example: In 2013, 73 members of the Ampatuan clan in Maguindanao are running for office



ROOTS OF DYNASTIES: From local elite to national elite

- Pre-colonial: *Maharlika* class
- Spanish colonialism (400 years):
Local elite – former *maharlika*
class (governadorcillo, principalia)
for local administration & taxation
- US colonialism (50 years): Taft
limited voting/candidacy to the
propertied class (less than 1%
of the population);
- Local elections (1903) + national
elections (1907) catapulted the
local elite to national positions



ROOTS OF DYNASTIES:

1907 to present



- From **1907 to 2004** (1st Philippine Assembly to present Congress of 2 Houses): home to 160 families continuously serving each with 2+ members, accounting for 424 of 2,407 men and women elected during the period
- Post-war House of Representatives (1946 Congress): of 98 congressmen elected, 61 came from families with elective positions from 1907 to 1941



ROOTS OF DYNASTIES: Immutable & unequal socio-economic structure

ECONOMIC MONOPOLIZATION:

- Landowning system
- Mining, logging, sugar, tobacco
- Real estate, other industrial enterprises, media
- Links to banks, financial institutions, tie-ups with foreign and local big businesses
- ECONOMIC POWER BREEDS POLITICAL POWER



POLITICAL SYSTEM Perpetuates Dynasties

ELECTORAL ADVANTAGE OF DYNASTIES:

- Studies of Congress & Governors (1907 to present): dynastic candidates have greater chances of winning over non-dynastic candidates
- A big percentage (up to 70%) of winning dynastic candidates have relatives in other positions



PERPETUATING DYNASTIES:

Other conditions & advantages

- Traditional kinship network, political machineries
- Wealth & property
- Access to government resources
- Weak political party system
- Weak electoral system
- Culture of powerlessness among the people/voters
- Others: Warlordism (PAGs), etc.



WARLORDISM & Private Armed Groups

2012



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CONCLUSION



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