



Some Thoughts on the Party-List System's Way Forward

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Paradox 1: Under-representation

- The Party-list system is in spirit intended for the marginalized sectors of our society, yet the present law and set-up in effect legalizes these sectors' marginalization.
 - *“Representational tokenism”*
 - *Outright under-representation or denial of representation*



Minimum No. of Votes Wasted

Elections	Total Votes Cast for Party-List	Minimum Votes Wasted	Percentage to Total
2001	15,118,815	8,034,627	53%
2004	12,721,952	4,546,500	36%
2007	15,766,940	6,972,417	44%



Paradox 2: Under-appreciation

- The Party-list system is by design for the benefit of the marginalized sectors, yet it is significantly under-appreciated by these very sectors



Reasons for Under-Appreciation

- People's perception of party-list groups as mere part of the system and not the *alternative* kind of representatives who will stand up for their rights and welfare
- Party-list groups continue to fall short in capturing the imagination of the public and their intended constituents



Party-List Reforms Proposals

- Greater Focus on Sectoral Representation
 - The concept is very simple: farmers should be represented by farmers; workers by workers; indigenous people by indigenous people's leaders
 - New registration for all voters where each voter will define the sector he or she belongs to, i.e. his/her *sector preference*



Party-List Reforms Proposals

- Integrated Information Campaign on Party-List System
 - COMELEC annual budget allocation devoted solely for the continuous information drive about the party-list system
 - Formation of a multi-stakeholders' council for this long-term initiative



Party-List Reforms Proposals

- Benchmarking Party-List System
 - An internal initiative
 - Set of operational and organizational standards
 - Party-list organization *in the electorate*,
 - Party-list group *as an organization* and
 - Party-list organization *in government*
 - Benchmarks for Party-list representatives



Party-List Reforms Proposals

- Political/Social Audit
 - A means for constant review of performance vis-à-vis their mandate
 - Social audit must be conducted by a third-party to be formed



Party-List Reforms Proposals

- Political/Social Audit

- Four Elements

- Mandate Declaration
 - External View and Stakeholders
 - Internal View and Organization
 - Social Accounting and Verification