

IS THERE A PARTY IN THE HOUSE ?

EDNA E. A. CO

17 October 2007



FLOW OF THE PRESENTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

2. IMPACT

- LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION**
- OVERSIGHT FUNCTION**
- BUDGET ALLOCATION & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**

3. PARTY LIST AS POLITICAL PARTY

- ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY, FINANCES, ETC.**

4. PARTY LIST ISSUES/ CONUNDRUM

5. CHALLENGES TO THE PARTY LIST/PARTY LIST LAW



Table 1. Party List Seats and Representatives from 1998 to 2007

1998	2001	2004	2007
13 (14 representatives)	12 (20 representatives)	16 (24 representatives)	No final canvass (as of this writing, August 2007)

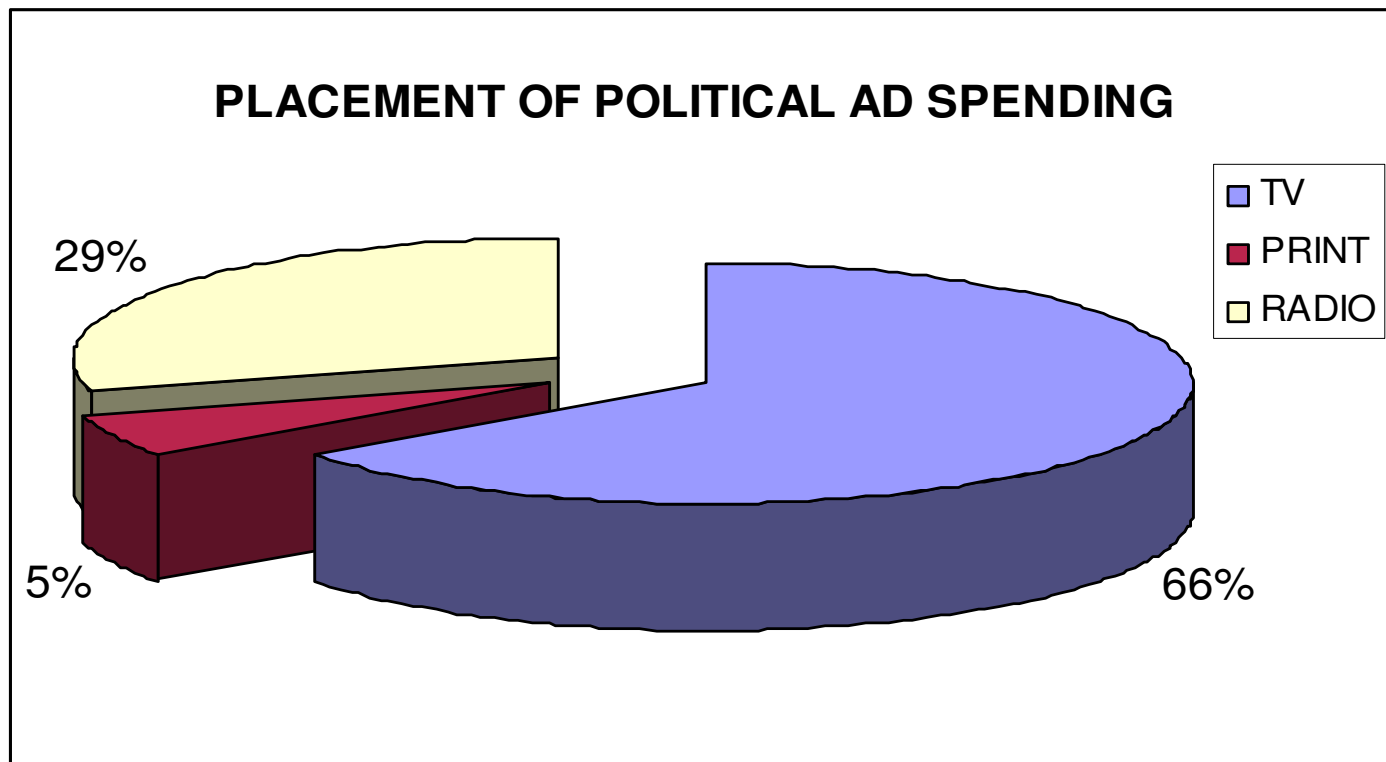


TOP 20 PARTY_LIST SPENDERS on Political Advertisements, 2007

Groups	Amount (Php)	Percent of Total Party List Spending
BANAT	35,266,000	28.74
KAKUSA	22,329,000	18.20
CIBAC	9,595,000	7.82
ALAGAD	6,890,000	5.61
BUHAY	6,884,000	5.61
AHON PINOY	6,081,000	4.96
AVE	5,098,000	4.15
KASANGGA	4,005,000	3.26
TUCP	2,660,000	2.17
COOP-NATCCO	2,251,000	1.83
GABRIELA	2,024,000	1.65
KABATAAN	1,839,000	1.50
APEC	1,329,000	1.08
AKAPIN	1,209,000	0.99
PM	1,056,000	0.86
ANC	1,032,000	0.84
BUTIL	1,011,000	0.82
ABS	956,000	0.78
ASAP	936,000	0.76
AGAP	914,000	0.74
Total Top 20 Spending	113,365,000	92.38
Total Spending of Other Party-list Groups	9,352,000	7.62
Total Party-list Group Spending	122,717,000	100

Source of Data : AC Nielsen, 2007; data put together by *Pera't Pulitika* (PAP), Philippines 2007.

Figure 1. Placement of Political Ad Spending



Source : *Pera't Pulitika* Report, unpublished document, 2007.

Table 2. TOP 20 PARTY-LIST GROUPS BASED ON COMELEC RANKING, 2007

	COMELEC OFFICIAL COUNT (as of 06-29-07)		AMOUNT OF SPENDING (Php)	COST PER VOTE (Php)
BUHAY	1,151,226	Top 20 Spender	6,884,000	5.98
BAYAN MUNA	954,922	Low Spender	606,000	0.63
CIBAC	749,410	Top 20 Spender	9,595,000	12.80
GABRIELA	594,958	Top 20 Spender	2,024,000	3.40
APEC	510,870	Top 20 Spender	1,329,000	2.60
A TEACHER	465,494	Low Spender	51,000	0.11
AKBAYAN	445,346	Low Spender	113,000	0.25
ALAGAD	422,052	Top 20 Spender	6,555,000	15.53
BUTIL	404,940	Top 20 Spender	1,011,000	2.50
BATAS	382,975	Low Spender	-	0
ANAKPAWIS	362,482	Top 20 Spender	2,251,000	6.21
COOP-NATCCO	360,155	Low Spender	363,000	1.01
ABONO	334,299	Low Spender	326,000	0.98
AGAP	321,998	Top 20 Spender	914,000	2.84
ARC	315,873	Low Spender	14,000	0.04
AN WARAY	293,680	Low Spender	58,000	0.20
AMIN	283,172	Low Spender	351,000	1.27
FPJPM	272,477	Low Spender	-	0
YACAP	245,977	Low Spender	397,000	1.61
KABATAAN	223,142	Top 20 Spender	1,839,000	8.35

Source: AC Nielsen, 2007; data analyzed and put together by *Pera't Pulitika*, Unpublished document 2007.



THE PARTY LIST CONUNDRUM

1. THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION

- PARTY LIST AS CORRECTIVE MECHANISM OF REPRESENTATION THROUGH A NON-TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF ELECTION**
- AS SOCIAL JUSTICE MECHANISM (20% OF TOTAL SEATS IN THE HOUSE)**
- UNDERREPRESENTED & MARGINALIZED SHOULD BE ALLOCATED SEATS (BY ADJUSTMENT IN STARTING POSITION)**
- EVENTUALLY, PARTY LIST ORGANIZATIONS GAIN STRENGTH & SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMPETE IN THE REGULAR POLITICAL CONTESTS**
- CHALLENGE FOR PARTY LIST TO PREPARE FOR PARTICIPATION IN MAINSTREAM POLITICS**



2. CONGRESS

-RA 7941 DEFINES PARTY (SECTORAL, POLITICAL, COALITION)

-DEFINES AN AMORPHOUS FORMULA FOR TRANSLATING VOTES RECEIVED TO CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE HOUSE : 2% THRESHOLD, 3 SEATS CAP

-DOES NOT ENSURE THAT THE 20% ALLOCATION IS FULFILLED



3. SUPREME COURT

-RECOGNIZES 2% THRESHOLD AND 3-SEAT CAP

**-IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO FILL THE 20% ALLOCATION FOR
SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**-SEATS IN PROPORTION TO HIGHEST RANKING PARTY
(PANGANIBAN FORMULA)**



4. COMELEC

-FOLLOWS THE SUPREME COURT RULING

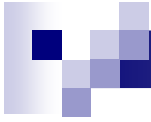
-APPLIES A LAX OR OPEN POLICY WITH REGARD TO PARTY LIST ACCREDITATION (PARTIES WEEDED OUT BY THE ELECTION PROCESS)



CHALLENGES TO THE PARTY LIST/ PARTY LIST LAW

1. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

- EFFECTIVE TRANSLATION OF VOTES INTO SEATS EARNED**
- INCLUSION AS INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION (CONSOLIDATION RATHER THAN FRAGMENTATION)**
- EFFECTIVE PR SYSTEM THAT ENCOURAGES REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY PARTIES IN LEGISLATURE TO RESTRICT THE GROWTH OF “KINGDOMS” AND DYNASTY SYSTEM**
- * CAVEAT : EXTREMIST PARTIES (WHETHER LEFT OR RIGHT)
– TO SABOTAGE DECISION MAKING IN THE LEGISLATURE AND FORCE COALITION NEGOTIATIONS INTO GRIDLOCK**



- DEFINITION OF THRESHOLD

- REMOVE 3-SEAT CAP



2. PARTY LIST COUCHED AS PARTY

- CONSTITUENCY

-MEMBERS IDENTIFY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES (NOT SOME TOP LEVEL PARTY DECISION MAKING)

-ABILITY TO CONSOLIDATE THE ORGANIZATION (FINANCES, HEADQUARTERS, ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELECTORAL OR POLITICAL EXERCISE)

-SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF REPRESENTATIVES AND OF THE PARTY