

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3190

Introduced by **REP. ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitutional Commission was confronted with public pressure for the inclusion of this seemingly ideal system in the crafting of the Philippine constitution in 1986. Thus, its incorporation in the 1987 Philippine Constitution was considered a major political innovation envisioned to produce a legislative body that will broadly reflect the electorate's choices and make more representative and inclusive policies. Subsequently, the enabling law, Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the Party - List System Act, was enacted in 1995.

The passage of the Party - List System Act, covering twenty percent (20%) of the membership of the House of Representatives, was considered a breakthrough towards a process of dismantling domination and control by the traditional *politicos*. It was envisioned to guarantee a more diverse political representation through the empowerment of the marginalized and underrepresented sections of our society.

More than a decade of its implementation, however, we have witnessed the compelling issues confronting the party-list system brought about by the apparent imperfections of the law. These problems can be summarized to the following:

1. **Poor information dissemination** - One of the main problems initially seen in the implementation of the first election for party-list in 1998 was the deficient basic voter information and education about the system. The COMELEC was expected to launch information campaign in 1995 but it was unsuccessful, judging from the lack of knowledge on the party-list system even among the more informed segments of society. The slack information campaign led to the low voter turnout for party-list in 1998. In the said election, only twenty-six percent (26%) voted for the party-list out of the total voter turn-out.

Surprisingly, fifteen years after the Party-list System Act was passed, most Filipino voters are still oblivious of the system. This was illustrated in a nationwide survey conducted by the Pulse Asia in January 2010, wherein it showed that only three out of ten Filipinos were aware of the party-list system. While we do not view the survey as a *matter-of-factly* representation of the true state of awareness of the Filipino voters, it somehow illustrates that there is an evident lack of knowledge of the party-list system.

2. **Problematic seat allocation** - One of the early controversies in the implementation of RA 7941 was the allocation of seats to the party-list representatives in relation to the 2% threshold provided for in the law and the 20% allocation for the party-list in the House of Representatives.

3. **Dubious COMELEC accreditation guidelines** - One of the gripping issues that have been challenging the enabling law is the unclear guidelines on the issuance of accreditation to groups who are aspiring participation in the party-list system. For instance, the determination of which group should be considered "marginalized and underrepresented" as epitomized in the original intent of the law poses a major challenge. The situation was aggravated by the entry of certain groups with dubious backgrounds.
4. **Vague and inconsistent party-list nominees' qualifications** - The major issue highlighted in the 2010 elections was the presence of some popular personalities as nominees in the party-list. While it was popularly argued that the nominees should be a bona fide member of the sector or group he wishes to represent, his membership for a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the election doesn't seem suffice to justify genuine membership.

Five party-list elections have already passed and yet we are still reeling the effects of its implementation. The failure of the previous congresses to pass the much-needed reforms in the system has resulted to the tumultuous interpretations of the law. Right after the first election for the party-list in 1998, legislative proposals to amend the governing law were filed. The persisting attempts continued even in the 14th Congress but to no avail. Thus, this bill is a rejoinder to the previous efforts to address the flaws of RA 7941 and is endeavored to strengthen the law to reduce the opportunity of those groups who want to take advantage of its weakness. This is a long overdue measure that should be addressed with a sense of urgency to avoid any further perplexities in the future.

Hence, in view of the foregoing premises, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ
3rd District, Negros Occidental

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**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"PARTY - LIST SYSTEM ACT"**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows :

"Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote proportional representation in the election of representatives to the House of Representatives through a party-list system of registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions thereof, which will enable Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized [and under-represented] sectors, organizations and parties, and who lack well-defined political constituencies but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole, to become members of the House of Representatives. Towards this end, the State shall develop and guarantee a full, free and open party system in order to attain the broadest possible representation of party, sectoral or group interests in the House of Representatives by enhancing their chances to compete for and win seats in the legislature, and shall provide the simplest scheme possible."

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended, by revising paragraphs (d) and (e), and by adding terms to be defined as follows :

"Section 3. Definition of terms. -

- (a) xxx
- (b) xxx
- (c) xxx
- (d) A sectoral party refers to an organized group of citizens belonging to any of the **MARGINALIZED** sectors **AS PROVIDED FOR** in Section 5 hereof whose principal advocacy pertains to the [special] interest and concerns of their sector.
- (e) A sectoral organization refers to a group of citizens or a coalition of groups of citizens who share [physical attributes of characteristics, employment,] **COMMON** interests **AND/or** concerns of their sector.
- (f) xxx
- (g) **"MARGINALIZED" REFERS TO THE SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY WHO ARE AT A PERSISTENT DISADVANTAGE THAT IS ROOTED IN**

UNDERLYING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT, MARGINALIZED SECTORS SHALL INCLUDE, LABOR, PEASANT, FISHERFOLK, URBAN POOR, INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED, WOMEN, YOUTH AND OVERSEAS WORKERS.

- (h) "AVAILABLE SEATS" REFERS TO THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF SEATS RESERVED FOR THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM AS STATED IN SECTION 10 HEREOF;
- (i) "GUARANTEED SEAT" REFERS TO THAT WHICH A PARTY-LIST IS AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO BY OBTAINING THE WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF VOTES OF THE TOTAL PARTY-LIST VOTES CAST;
- (j) "REMAINING SEATS" REFERS TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AVAILABLE SEATS AND THE GUARANTEED SEATS AS STATED IN SECTION 10 HEREOF;
- (k) "ADDITIONAL SEATS" REFERS TO THE SEATS AWARDED TO THE PARTY-LIST ON TOP OF THE GUARANTEED SEAT.

SEC. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. Manifestation to Participate in the Party – List System. – Any party, organization, or coalition already registered with the Commission need not register anew. However, such party, organization, or coalition shall file with the Commission, not later than | ninety (90) | **ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180)** days before the election, a manifestation of its desire to participate in the party-list system.

SEC. 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Registration. – Any organized group of persons may register as a party, organization or coalition for purposes of the party – list system by filing with the COMELEC not later than | ninety (90) | **ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180)** days before the election a petition verified by its president or secretary stating its desire to participate in the party – list system as a national, regional or sectoral party or organization or a coalition of such parties or organization, attaching thereto its constitution, by – laws, platform or program of government, list of officers, coalition agreement and other relevant information as the COMELEC may require: *Provided*, That the sectors shall include, **BUT NOT LIMITED TO**, labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, **AND** overseas workers[, and professional] **SECTORS: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT, THE PARTIES, ORGANIZATIONS OR COALITION THEREOF REPRESENT THE MARGINALIZED SECTORS OF SOCIETY, AND POSSESS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 6 OF THIS ACT;**

POLITICAL PARTIES ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM: PROVIDED, THAT THEY CAN PROVE THAT THE PARTY IS ORGANIZED ALONG SECTORAL LINES: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE POLITICAL PARTY SHALL BE ABLE TO SHOW PROOF THAT ITS CONSTITUENCY IS SPREAD OVER THE GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORY OF AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE PROVINCES OR CITIES COMPRISING A REGION, AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE IN EACH CASE.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT ANY OF THE AFORECITED REQUIREMENTS MAY BE A GROUND FOR DISMISSAL *MOTU PROPRIO* OF ITS PETITION; OTHERWISE, THE COMMISSION shall THEREAFTER publish the VERIFIED petition in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation AND SET THE SAME FOR HEARING.

The COMELEC shall, after due notice and hearing, resolve [the] **SAID** petition, **INCLUDING A MOTION FOR ITS RECONSIDERATION** within [fifteen (15)] **THIRTY (30)** days from the date [it was submitted for decision] **OF ITS SUBMISSION FOR RESOLUTION** but [sixty (60)] **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** days before election."

SEC. 5. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. Refusal and/or Cancellation of Registration. – The COMELEC may *motu proprio* or upon a verified complaint of any interested party, remove or cancel, after due notice and hearing, the registration of any national, regional or sectoral party, organization or coalition on any of the following grounds:

- (1) It is a religious sect or denomination, organization or association organized for religious purposes, **OR BACKED OR FUNDED BY SUCH AN ORGANIZATION;**
- (2) xxx
- (3) xxx
- (4) xxx
- (5) xxx
- (6) xxx
- (7) [It has ceased to exist for at least one (1) year; or] **IT IS A SECTORAL PARTY ORGANIZED OR AN ENTITY FUNDED OR ASSISTED BY THE GOVERNMENT;**
- (8) **IT IS A MILITARY, POLICE – RELATED ORGANIZATION, SECURITY AGENCY OR PRIVATE ARMED GROUP, OR IT IS BACKED OR FUNDED BY SUCH AN ORGANIZATION;**
- (9) **IT WAS DISSOLVED, ABSORBED, MERGED, AND/OR HAS CEASED TO EXIST TWO YEARS BEFORE THE ELECTION;**
- (10) **IT FAILS TO SHOW PROOF THAT IT REPRESENTS THE MARGINALIZED AND GROUP IDENTIFIED IN SECTION 5 OF RA 7941;**
- (11) **THE POLITICAL PARTY FAILS TO SHOW PROOF THAT ITS CONSTITUENCY IS SPREAD OVER THE GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORY OF AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF THE PROVINCES OR CITIES COMPRISING A REGION, AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE IN EACH CASE; OR**
- (12) [8] It fails to participate in the last two (2) **IMMEDIATELY** preceding elections; or **HAVING [it] PARTICIPATED**, fails to obtain at least the winning minimum percentage of the **PARTY-LIST** votes **CAST IN THE** [cast under the party – list system in] two (2) preceding elections for the constituency in which it has registered."

SEC. 6. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. Certified List of Registered Parties. – The COMELEC shall, not later than [sixty (60)] **SEVENTY FIVE (75)** days before election, prepare a certified list of national, regional, or sectoral parties, organizations or coalitions which have applied or who have manifested their desire to participate under the party

- list system. **SAID CERTIFIED LIST SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS**, and distribute copies thereof to all precincts for posting in the polling places on election day. The names of the party - list nominees shall not be shown on the certified list."

SEC. 7. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 8. Nomination of Party - List Representatives. - Each registered party, organization or coalition shall submit to the COMELEC not later than [forty - five (45) | **NINETY (90)** days before the election a list of names, not less than five (5), from which party - list representatives shall be chosen in case it obtains the required number of votes.

A person may be nominated in one (1) list only. Only persons who have given their consent in writing may be named in the list. The list shall not include any candidate for any elective office or person who has lost his bid for an elective office **OTHER THAN THE PARTY-LIST** in the immediately preceding election: **PROVIDED, THAT ANY INCUMBENT APPOINTIVE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND EMPLOYEE INCLUDING ANY ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND ANY EMPLOYEE IN GOVERNMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED IPSO FACTO RESIGNED FROM THE SERVICE UPON THE SUBMISSION OF HIS NAME AS PARTY-LIST NOMINEE WITH THE COMELEC: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT AN EMPLOYEE WITH SALARY GRADE 21 OR BELOW SHALL ONLY BE DEEMED ON LEAVE FOR THE DURATION OF THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD.** No change of names or alteration of the order of nominees shall be allowed after the same shall have been submitted to the COMELEC except in cases where the nominee dies, or withdraws in writing his nomination, becomes incapacitated in which case the name of the substitute shall be placed in the list. Incumbent sectoral representatives in the House of Representatives who are nominated in the party - list system shall not be considered resigned.

SEC. 8. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 9. Qualifications of Party - List Nominees. - **A PARTYLIST NOMINEE MUST BE:** [No person shall be nominated a party - list representative unless he is a natural - born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter, a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election, able to read and write, a bona fide member of the party or organization which he seeks to represent for at least ninety (90) preceding the day of the election, and is at least twenty - five (25) years of age on the day of the election.]

[In case of a nominee of the youth sector, he must at least be twenty - five (25) but not more than thirty (30) years on the day of the election. A youth sectoral representative who attains the age of thirty (30) during his term shall be allowed to continue in office until the expiration of his term.]

- A. **A NATURAL-BORN CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES;**
- B. **A REGISTERED VOTER;**
- C. **A RESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DAY OF THE ELECTION;**
- D. **ABLE TO READ AND WRITE;**

- E. A BONA FIDE MEMBER OF THE PARTY OR ORGANIZATION WHICH HE SEEKS TO REPRESENT FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR PRECEDING THE DAY OF THE ELECTION;
- F. AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS OF AGE ON DAY OF THE ELECTION;
- G. ONE WHO BELONGS TO THE MARGINALIZED SECTOR/S, THE SECTORAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL PARTY OR COALITION HE SEEKS TO REPRESENT; AND

IN CASE OF A NOMINEE OF THE YOUTH SECTOR, HE MUST AT LEAST BE TWENTY – FIVE (25) BUT NOT MORE THAN THIRTY (30) YEARS OF AGE ON THE DAY OF THE ELECTION. A YOUTH SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO ATTAINS THE AGE OF THIRTY (30) DURING HIS TERM SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM.

THE COMELEC SHALL REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT THE NOMINEES TRULY BELONG TO THE MARGINALIZED SECTOR/S, SECTORAL PARTY OR COALITION THEREOF WHICH THEY SEEK TO REPRESENT, WHICH MAY INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. TRACK RECORD OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP/ORGANIZATION SHOWING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE NOMINEE/S IN THE UNDERTAKINGS OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP/ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MARGINALIZED SECTOR/S, THE SECTORAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION, OR COALITION THEY SEEK TO REPRESENT;
- 2. EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE NOMINEE/S TRULY ADHERES TO THE ADVOCACIES OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP/ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PRIOR DECLARATIONS, SPEECHES, WRITTEN ARTICLES, AND SUCH OTHER POSITIVE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE NOMINEE/S SHOWING HIS/HER ADHERENCE TO THE ADVOCACIES OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP/ORGANIZATION; AND
- 3. CERTIFICATION THAT THE NOMINEE IS A BONA FIDE MEMBER OF THE PARTY-LIST GROUP/ORGANIZATION FOR AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR PRIOR TO THE ELECTION
- 4. MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT SIGNED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTYLIST.

PROVIDED, THAT NO NOMINEE SHALL BE A CANDIDATE FOR ANY ELECTIVE OFFICE OTHER THAN THE PARTY-LIST. *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT, NO NOMINEE IS OCCUPYING ANY ELECTIVE OFFICE IN THE LEGISLATURE OR APPOINTIVE OFFICE IN THE CABINET OF THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT.

SEC. 9. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 10. Manner of Voting. – Every voter shall be entitled to two (2) votes **FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**. The first is a vote for candidate for

member of the House of Representatives in his legislative district, and the second, a vote for the party, organization, or coalition he wants to be represented in the House of Representatives: Provided, that a vote cast for a party, sectoral organization or coalition not entitled to be voted for shall not be counted **AND CONSIDERED IN THE COMPUTATION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR THE PARTY - LIST.** [;Provided, finally, that the first election under the party - list system shall be held in May 1998.]

[The COMELEC shall undertake the necessary information campaign for purposes of educating the electorate on the matter of the party - list system.]”

SEC. 10. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11. Number of Party - List Representatives. - The party - list representatives shall constitute twenty per centum (20%) of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives including those under the party - list.

[For purposes of the May 1998 elections, 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 of the Philippines shall not be entitled to participate in the party-list system.]

[In determining the allocation of seats for the second vote, the following shall be observed:]

- a. [The parties, organizations and coalitions shall be ranked from the highest to the lowest based on the number of votes they garnered during the elections.]
- b. [The parties, organizations, and coalitions receiving at least two percent (2%) of the total votes cast for the party-list system shall be entitled to one seat each: *Provided*, That those garnering more than two percent (2%) of the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes: *Provided, finally*, That each party, organization, or coalition shall be entitled to not more than three (3) seats.]”

SEC. 11. Sections 12 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 12. Procedure in Allocating Seats for the Party-list Representatives. - [The COMELEC shall tally all the votes for the parties, organizations, or coalitions on a nationwide basis, rank them according to the number of votes received and allocate party-list representatives proportionately according to the percentage of votes obtained by each party, organization, or coalition as against the total nationwide votes cast for the party-list system.] **IN ALLOCATING SEATS FOR THE PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES, THE COMELEC SHALL ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:**

- A.) **TO DETERMINE THE AVAILABLE SEATS FOR PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES, THE NUMBER OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE DIVIDED TO .80 THEN MULTIPLIED TO .20. THE RESULTS FROM THIS OPERATION SHALL BE THE NUMBER OF ALLOCATED SEATS TO BE FILLED UP BY THE PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES;**

- B.) THE NUMBER OF VOTES FOR EACH PARTY-LIST SHALL BE DIVIDED FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM. AFTERWARDS, ALL THE PARTIES SHALL BE RANKED FROM THE HIGHEST TO LOWEST ACCORDING TO PERCENTAGE AND THOSE WHO GARNERED MORE THAN 2%, REGARDLESS OF GETTING MORE THAN 4% AND 6%, IS GUARANTEED TO ONLY ONE (1) SEAT;
- C.) THE GUARANTEED SEATS SHALL THEN BE SUBTRACTED FROM THE NUMBER OF THE ALLOCATED SEATS FOR PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES FROM WHICH THE REMAINING SEATS AVAILABLE FOR THE PARTY-LIST IS DERIVED;
- D.) THE NUMBER OF REMAINING SEATS, AFTER TAKING THE GUARANTEED SEATS, SHALL BE MULTIPLIED TO THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES THE CONCERNED PARTY HAD RECEIVED IN STEP TWO (2). THOSE PARTIES WHO GET A RESULT OF MORE THAN ONE (1) IS GUARANTEED TO ONE (1) ADDITIONAL SEAT, BUT IF EVER THEY GET MORE THAN 2, THEY WOULD BE GUARANTEED 2 SEATS, PROVIDED THAT THE NUMBER OF SEATS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 3.

SEC. 12. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 15. Change of Affiliation; Effect. - Any [elected] party-list representative who changes his [political party or sectoral] **PARTY-LIST** affiliation during his term of office shall forfeit his seat **AND SHALL BE INELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION AS A PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE UNDER HIS NEW PARTY OR ORGANIZATION IN THE NEXT ELECTION.**"

SEC. 13. Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 17. Rights of Party-list Representatives.- Party-list representatives shall be entitled to the same salaries, emoluments, **RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND BENEFITS** as **DISTRICT** [regular] members of the House of Representatives."

SEC. 14. A new section is hereby inserted and denominated as Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7941 as follows:

"Sec. 18. **VOTERS' EDUCATION.** - **THE COMELEC, TOGETHER WITH AND IN SUPPORT OF ACCREDITED CITIZENS' ARMS, SHALL CARRY OUT A CONTINUING AND SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN THROUGH QUAD MEDIA , AS WELL AS THROUGH SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA, FORA AND OTHER NON-TRADITIONAL MEANS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND FULLY INFORM THE ELECTORATE ABOUT THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE MANNER BY WHICH THEY MAY BE VOTED UPON.**"

SEC. 15. Section 18 of Republic Act No. 7941 is hereby renumbered as Section 19 and amended as follows:

"Sec. [18] 19. Rules and Regulations. - **THE COMELEC, IN CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES,** shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act. **SAID RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE ALL RESOLUTIONS THAT SHALL GOVERN OR AFFECT PARTY-LIST ELECTIONS.**"

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,