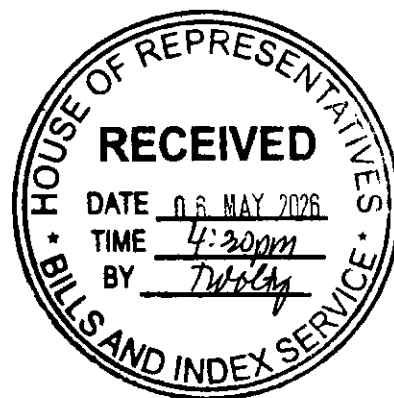




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9139**



Introduced by Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Jose "Bong" J. Teves Jr., Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, JC M. Abalos, James "Jojo" A. Ang, Jr., Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Munir N. Arbison, Jr., Ching B. Bernos, Nicanor M. Briones, Felimon M. Espares, Robert Raymund M. Estrella, Edwin L. Gardiola, Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, Brian Poe, Maria Cristina T. Lopez, Rodolfo "Ompong" M. Ordanes, Aiman T. Tan, Jeffrey Soriano, Florabel C. Yatco, Henry "Indy" F. Oaminal, Jr., Rolando L. Macasaet, Bryan B. Revilla, Nathaniel M. Oducado

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE,
ENSURING INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, PROHIBITING
POLITICAL TURNCOATISM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Political parties are among the most important institutions in any representative democracy. They are meant to organize public opinion, articulate competing visions of governance, recruit and train leaders, develop government programs, and provide the electorate with meaningful choices anchored in principles and policies. In a healthy democratic system, political parties give structure to public life. They help ensure that elections are not reduced to contests of personality, patronage, or convenience, but become genuine opportunities for citizens to choose between coherent ideas, credible platforms, and accountable leaders. Yet in the Philippines, the political party system has remained fragile, fluid, and under institutionalized.

For decades, the country has suffered from a political culture marked by weak party discipline, transactional alignments, personalistic political formations, and the repeated shifts in party affiliations for convenience or advantage. Many parties remain active only during election periods and are often organized around temporary

alliances, individual personalities, or access to power rather than enduring principles and programmatic commitments. Party-switching or turncoatism has become normalized. Internal party democracy remains uneven. Party membership is often undocumented or loosely maintained. Candidate selection is frequently opaque. Financial transparency is limited. Public trust in political parties remains low because many parties have not yet developed into stable institutions of democratic participation and governance.

This condition has serious consequences for the quality of Philippine democracy. It weakens ideological coherence. It blurs accountability. It undermines the development of long-term policy agendas. It encourages opportunism rather than conviction, and expediency rather than responsibility. It also places emerging and developing political parties at a disadvantage, as they often lack the institutional support, professional capacity, and public resources necessary to become viable democratic actors. As a result, the party system becomes skewed in favor of entrenched and dominant formations, even when the broader democratic interest requires pluralism, competition, and the sustained development of alternative political movements.

The Constitution recognizes the essential role of political parties in the democratic order and expressly contemplates a party system that contributes to free and orderly elections, responsible representation, and meaningful political participation. This bill seeks to give fuller life to that constitutional vision by institutionalizing political party development and governance, strengthening internal democracy and accountability, discouraging political turncoatism, and establishing a framework that allows political parties to function as enduring democratic institutions rather than temporary electoral vehicles.

This measure provides a comprehensive framework for the registration, accreditation, governance, and supervision of political parties. It defines the nature, roles, and functions of political parties, and recognizes them as essential democratic institutions tasked with candidate recruitment, policy formulation, political education, and the accountability of elected officials. It establishes standards for organizational permanence, ideological coherence, internal democratic structures, transparent decision-making, and verified membership systems. It also requires party conventions, internal elections, candidate screening, and nomination procedures to be conducted

in accordance with democratic norms and under appropriate oversight by the COMELEC.

The bill likewise addresses one of the most persistent weaknesses in the Philippine political system: turncoatism. By defining and penalizing political turncoatism and imposing accountability on both individuals who abandon party loyalty and on parties that induce or facilitate such conduct, the measure seeks to restore seriousness, coherence, and discipline to party affiliation. This is necessary not merely as a matter of organizational order, but as a matter of democratic accountability to the electorate, which deserves honesty and consistency from those who seek and hold public office under a party banner.

Equally important, the bill recognizes that political parties cannot be expected to become stronger institutions without lawful and carefully regulated support for their development. It therefore establishes a Political Party Development Fund to provide institutional assistance for political education, policy research, organizational strengthening, civic engagement, capacity building, and other legitimate party functions. At the same time, the measure adopts strict safeguards on transparency, financial disclosure, donor regulation, expenditure ceilings, and audit mechanisms to ensure that public support for party development serves democratic purposes and is protected from misuse, abuse, or capture.

A significant and timely feature of this proposal is its explicit support for emerging and developing political parties. The bill recognizes that a democratic system cannot flourish when public resources, institutional access, and political opportunity are concentrated in the hands of a few dominant organizations. It therefore provides for minimum guaranteed allocations, institutional capacity-building support, equitable access to public information and party education platforms, proportional compliance requirements, and an incubation and mentorship program for parties still building their structures and constituencies. In so doing, the measure affirms that political pluralism is not a weakness of democracy but one of its strengths, and that a competitive and

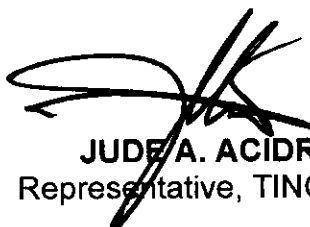
inclusive party system requires deliberate safeguards for new, growing, regional, sectoral, or still developing parties that lack institutional capacity.

This bill also recognizes that stronger political parties require stronger enforcement. It therefore vests the COMELEC and the proposed National Political Party Development Board with complementary powers of supervision, regulation, audit, investigation, and enforcement. It defines prohibited acts, prescribes penalties, provides procedures for adjudication, and establishes whistleblower protections and interagency coordination mechanisms necessary to preserve the integrity of the party system. These provisions are meant to ensure that the legal framework for party development is not merely aspirational, but effective, enforceable, and credible.

At its core, this proposed measure is a reform bill for democratic institution-building. It is premised on a simple but important truth: democracy becomes stronger when political parties are more principled, transparent, democratic, accountable, and programmatic. Elections become more meaningful when parties stand for something clear, cultivate leaders seriously, and remain active beyond campaign season. Governance becomes more stable when party commitments bind elected officials and when parties themselves are held to standards of responsibility and integrity.

The Comprehensive Political Party Empowerment Act seeks to lay the foundation for that kind of democratic renewal. It aims to move Philippine politics away from personality-driven, purely transactional practices toward a more disciplined, policy-oriented, inclusive, and institution-based party system. In doing so, it aspires to strengthen not only political parties themselves, but also the broader democratic life of the Republic.

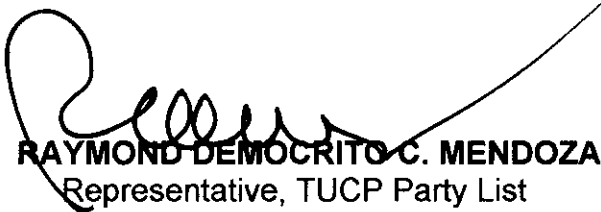
In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



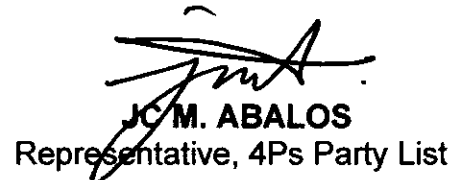
JUDE A. ACIDRE
Representative, TINGOG Party List



JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES JR.
Representative, TGP Party List

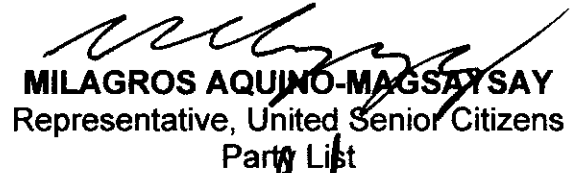


RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Representative, TUCP Party List

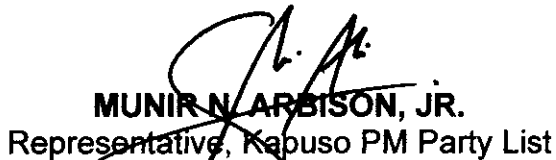


JCM. ABALOS
Representative, 4Ps Party List

JAMES "JOJO" A. ANG, JR.
Representative, Uswag Ilonggo Party List



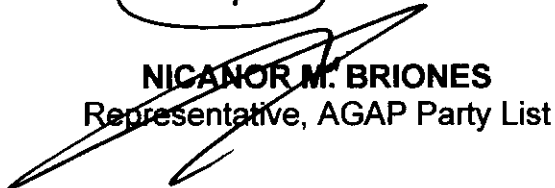
MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY
Representative, United Senior Citizens
Party List



MUNIR N. ARBISON, JR.
Representative, Kapuso PM Party List



CHING B. BERNOS
Representative, Solid North Party List



NICANOR M. BRIONES
Representative, AGAP Party List



FELIMON M. ESPARES
Representative, COOP-NATCCO Party List

ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA
Representative, Abono Party List

EDWIN L. GARDIOLA
Representative, CWS Party List



FRANZ VINCENT F. LEGAZPI
Representative, Pinoy Workers Party List



BRIAN POE
Representative, FPJ Panday Bayanihan
Party List



MARIA CRISTINA T. LOPEZ
Representative, ALONA Party List



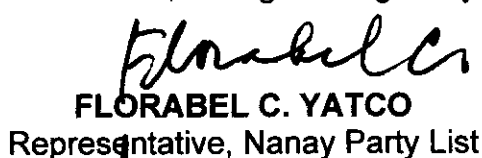
RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES
Representative, Senior Citizens Party List



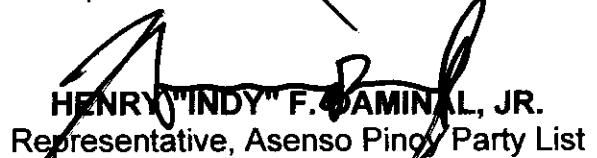
AIMAN T. TAN
Representative, Kusug Tausug Party List



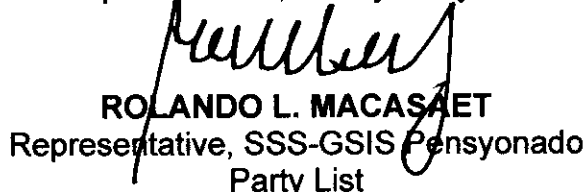
JEFFREY SORIANO
Representative, ACT-CIS Party List



FLORABEL C. YATCO
Representative, Nanay Party List

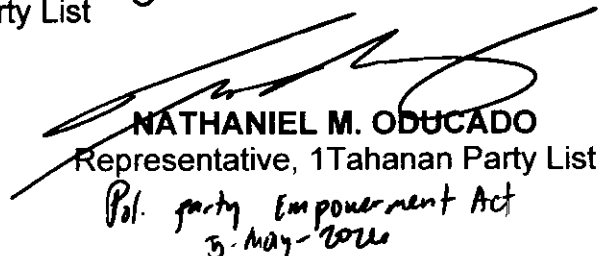


HENRY "INDY" F. DAMINAL, JR.
Representative, Asenso Pinoy Party List



ROLANDO L. MACASAET
Representative, SSS-GSIS Pensyonado
Party List

BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative, Agimat Party List



NATHANIEL M. ODUCAO
Representative, 1Tahanan Party List
*Pol. party Empowerment Act
5-May-2022*



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9139**

Introduced by Representatives Jude A. Acidre, Jose “Bong” J. Teves, Jr., Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, JC M. Abalos, James “Jojo” A. Ang, Jr., Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Munir N. Arbison, Jr., Ching B. Bernos, Nicanor M. Briones, Felimon M. Espares, Robert Raymund M. Estrella, Edwin L. Gardiola, Franz Vincent F. Legazpi, Brian Poe, Maria Cristina T. Lopez, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Aiman T. Tan, Jeffrey Soriano, Florabel C. Yatco, Henry “Indy” F. Oaminal, Jr., Rolando L. Macasaet, Bryan B. Revilla, Nathaniel M. Oducado

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE,
ENSURING INTERNAL DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY, PROHIBITING
POLITICAL TURNCOATISM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

TITLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Comprehensive Political Party Empowerment Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen political parties as essential institutions of representative democracy, recognizing their constitutional role in nation-building, political education, candidate selection, policy development, and responsible governance.

Toward this end, the State shall promote ideologically coherent, programmatically anchored, and institutionally robust political parties; ensure internal democracy, transparency, and accountability in their operations; prevent political opportunism and turncoatism; and establish mechanisms so that political parties continuously function beyond electoral cycles.

1 The State further recognizes political parties as public institutions requiring minimum
2 standards of performance, Provided, That political parties shall remain autonomous
3 and free from undue government interference, Provided further, That such autonomy
4 shall not excuse non-compliance with duties imposed under this Act.

5 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
6 defined as follows:

7 (a) “Political party” refers to an organized group of citizens bound by a shared
8 ideology, principles, or program of government, which seeks to attain political
9 power through democratic means in order to implement public policies consistent
10 with its platform.

11 (b) “Party member” refers to any registered voter who has formally enrolled in a
12 political party in accordance with its constitution and by-laws and whose
13 membership is duly recorded in the Political Party Membership Registry of the
14 Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Provided, That no person shall be
15 considered a party member unless such affiliation appears in his or her voter
16 registration record.

17 (c) “Verified membership” refers to the number of party members in a given
18 constituency whose identities and party affiliations have been authenticated by
19 COMELEC through biometric, digital, or documentary verification procedures.

20 (d) “Nomination quota” refers to the minimum verified membership required of a
21 political party before it may nominate a candidate in a given constituency,
22 equivalent to at least one percent of the total number of registered voters therein,
23 subject to phased implementation during the transition period.

24 (e) “Independent candidate” refers to a person seeking election without the
25 nomination of any political party and who must secure verified endorsements of at
26 least five percent of registered voters in the constituency, as certified by
27 COMELEC.

28 (f) “Party convention” refers to a formal assembly of party members, delegates, or
29 authorized representatives convened at the national, regional, or local level for the

1 purpose of selecting candidates, electing party officers, amending party rules, or
2 approving party platforms, Provided, That all conventions shall be subject to
3 COMELEC supervision.

4 (g) "Internal party elections" refer to elections conducted within a political party to
5 choose officers or leaders in accordance with democratic principles, using secret
6 ballots, verified membership lists, and such procedures as may be prescribed in
7 the party's constitution, subject to COMELEC oversight where necessary.

8 (h) "Ideology or program of government" refers to the coherent set of principles, policy
9 positions, governance approaches, and long-term objectives forming the
10 foundation of a political party's identity.

11 (i) "Accredited political party" refers to a political party that has complied with all
12 requirements of registration, internal democracy, reporting, and membership
13 verification under this Act and has been issued an accreditation certificate by
14 COMELEC.

15 (j) "Political party coalition" refers to the formal alliance of two or more political parties
16 that enter into an agreement to pursue common platforms, coordinate electoral
17 strategies, or field joint candidates, Provided, That each party remains
18 independently compliant with this Act.

19 (k) "State subsidy" refers to public funds allocated to political parties under the Political
20 Party Development Fund (PPDF) for political education, research, policy
21 development, personnel training, organizational operations, and other allowable
22 uses as determined under this Act;

23 (l) "Political education" refers to programs, trainings, workshops, materials, and
24 activities conducted by a political party to cultivate ideological understanding,
25 democratic values, governance literacy, issue awareness, and civic participation
26 among its members and the public.

27 (m) "Internal dispute" refers to any controversy involving party membership, leadership
28 selection, nomination procedures, disciplinary matters, or interpretation of party
29 rules, whether raised before party bodies or requiring COMELEC intervention;

(n) "Fraudulent membership" refers to any falsely declared, coerced, duplicated, fictitious, or otherwise invalid record of party affiliation submitted for the purpose of meeting quotas, manipulating conventions, or misrepresenting party strength.

(o) "COMELEC supervision" refers to the authority of the COMELEC to: (1) monitor, examine, and certify party processes; (2) attend conventions and internal elections; (3) verify membership lists; and (4) ensure compliance with standards of transparency and democratic procedure.

(p) "Substantial compliance" refers to a level of compliance by a political party that, although not perfect in form, satisfies the substantive requirements of democratic process, transparency, and integrity as determined by COMELEC during accreditation or review.

TITLE II

NATURE, TYPE AND ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

SEC. 4. Nature and Essential Attributes of a Political Party. – A political party refers to an organized group of citizens bound by a common ideology, platform, advocacy, or program of government, advocating principles and policies for the general conduct of public affairs, which regularly nominates and supports certain of its leaders and members as candidates for public office, and which seeks to attain political power through lawful and democratic means in order to formulate, advance, and implement public policies consistent with its declared principles and objectives.

A political party shall possess and continuously maintain organizational permanence; a coherent and clearly articulated ideology or program of governance; a structured and accountable leadership; internal democratic mechanisms governing decision-making, membership participation, and the selection of candidates for public office; and sustained political education, policy development, and organizational activities integral to its mission.

1 A political party shall not be deemed, construed, or utilized solely as a personal political
2 instrument for any individual, nor as a temporary alliance, coalition, or grouping
3 established solely for electoral convenience or expediency.

4 **SEC. 5. Roles and Functions of Political Parties.** – Political parties are hereby
5 recognized as essential democratic institutions that give life, structure, and continuity
6 to representative government. Consistent with their constitutional significance, political
7 parties shall serve as enduring mechanisms for aggregating public interests,
8 cultivating leadership, shaping public policy, and ensuring democratic accountability.

9 For this purpose, every duly accredited political party shall discharge the following core
10 functions, which collectively define its constitutional role:

11 (a) Candidate recruitment, selection, and training, by identifying qualified individuals
12 for public office, nurturing prospective leaders, and ensuring that nominees and
13 candidates possess the competence, integrity, and commitment to the principles
14 and program of the party;

15 (b) Policy formulation and platform development, through organized processes of
16 research, consultation, and deliberation that result in coherent, evidence-based,
17 and forward-looking policy positions and a program of government reflective of the
18 party's ideology and values;

19 (c) Political education and civic formation, by promoting democratic participation,
20 strengthening public understanding of national issues, and providing continuous
21 education to members, supporters, and the electorate regarding the party's
22 principles, policy agenda, and responsibilities of citizenship; and

23 (d) Accountability of elected officials, by establishing mechanisms to monitor the
24 performance of party-affiliated public officials, ensuring adherence to party
25 discipline and ethical standards, and upholding responsibility to the electorate in
26 the exercise of public functions.

27 These roles and functions shall be exercised in a manner consistent with constitutional
28 rights, democratic norms, and the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, internal
29 democracy, and responsible governance.

1 **SEC. 6. Classification of Political Parties.** – Political parties registered under this
2 Act may be classified as national, regional, or sectoral.

3 (a) A national party refers to a political party whose constituency is spread across the
4 national territory and which maintains an active organizational presence in at least
5 a majority of the country's administrative regions.

6 (b) A regional party refers to a political party whose constituency is spread over the
7 geographical territory of at least a majority of the cities and provinces within a
8 particular region.

9 (c) A sectoral party refers to an organized association of citizens representing a
10 specific advocacy, social interest, or marginalized sectors.

11 (d) Coalitions of political parties shall likewise be recognized, Provided, That each
12 constituent party fully satisfies the requirements on registration, internal
13 democracy, and other obligations mandated under this Act.

14 **SEC. 7. Rights and Responsibilities of Political Parties.** – Political parties shall
15 have the right to:

16 (a) Nominate and endorse candidates for public office, consistent with their internal
17 democratic processes and duly adopted rules on selection and nomination;

18 (b) Access state subsidies, public funding, and other forms of support authorized
19 under this Act for purposes of party development, capacity-building, campaign
20 finance regulation, and the performance of their legitimate political functions;

21 (c) Conduct political education, civic formation, and policy development programs
22 aimed at strengthening democratic participation, enhancing public understanding
23 of governance issues, and institutionalizing programmatic politics; and

24 (d) Engage in all lawful political operations and activities, including organizing
25 campaigns, building constituencies, negotiating coalitions, mobilizing members,
26 and participating in electoral and governance processes, subject to the limits
27 prescribed by law.

1 In the exercise of these rights, political parties shall likewise bear the continuing
2 responsibility to uphold democratic values, protect the integrity of the electoral
3 process, and ensure adherence to constitutional principles. They shall maintain
4 updated, accurate, and verifiable membership records; conduct regular internal
5 elections in accordance with their constitution and by-laws; implement clear and
6 transparent rules on party discipline; and enforce ethical standards and accountability
7 mechanisms for their officers and members.

8 Each political party shall submit to the COMELEC annual reports detailing their
9 membership profile, organizational activities, internal elections, financial statements,
10 and the use of public subsidies, if any.

11 Failure to comply with any of the foregoing duties shall subject the political party to
12 administrative sanctions, including fines, suspension of privileges, withholding of
13 subsidies, cancellation of accreditation, or other penalties as may be determined by
14 the COMELEC pursuant to this Act.

15 16 TITLE III

17 REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, 18 AND DISCLOSURE OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP 19

20 **SEC. 8. Registration and Accreditation of Political Parties.** – Any organized group
21 of citizens seeking registration as a national, regional, or sectoral political party,
22 organization, or coalition shall file with the COMELEC a verified petition executed by
23 its president or secretary, stating its intent to participate in the electoral process and
24 attaching the following documents:

25 (a) Constitution and by-laws embodying internal democratic processes, including the
26 selection of officers, disciplinary mechanisms, and rules on membership;

27 (b) Platform or program of government, together with a clear ideological statement or
28 declaration of principles;

1 (c) Proof of organized membership and active chapters sufficient to demonstrate
2 permanence and organizational capacity;

3 (d) Complete list of officers and governing bodies, including their terms of office and
4 functions; and

5 (e) Audited financial statements, if applicable, and other relevant information as the
6 COMELEC may require.

7 In the case of sectoral organizations, the petition shall likewise identify the sector
8 represented, which may include labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous
9 cultural communities, elderly, persons with disabilities, women, youth, veterans,
10 overseas workers, professionals, or other similarly recognized sectors.

11 Upon filing, the COMELEC shall cause the publication of the petition in at least two (2)
12 national newspapers of general circulation.

13 The COMELEC shall evaluate whether the applicant political party meets the
14 standards of ideology, permanence, internal democracy, and organizational capacity.
15 Registration may be denied if the party lacks ideological coherence, maintains
16 fraudulent or misleading records, or functions primarily as a personal political
17 instrument or campaign organization.

18 **SEC. 9. Continuing Registration System.** – The registration and accreditation of
19 political parties shall be conducted under a continuing accreditation system
20 administered by the COMELEC, and shall be governed by the following:

21 (a) Continuing Accreditation Outside the Election Period. Registration and
22 accreditation shall be undertaken outside the election period on a continuing basis,
23 in accordance with rules and procedures promulgated by the COMELEC, in order
24 to ensure stability, predictability, and institutional development of political parties
25 and party-list organizations;

26 (b) Resolution of Petitions. After due notice and hearing, the COMELEC, all petitions
27 for registration or accreditation shall be resolved within fifteen (15) days from the
28 date it is submitted for decision, but in no case not later than one (1) year prior to

1 the commencement of the election period for the next regular election. The
2 COMELEC shall ensure that all decisions are final, executory, and published within
3 the prescribed period to allow sufficient preparation for electoral participation;

4 (c) Cut-Off for Filing of Petitions. No petition for registration or accreditation shall be
5 accepted within the one (1) year period preceding the start of the election period,
6 except for petitions seeking the cancellation of registration, which may be filed and
7 resolved in accordance with existing laws and regulations;

8 (d) Official Registry of Accredited Organizations. The COMELEC shall maintain,
9 update, and publish an official registry of all duly accredited political parties eligible
10 to participate in elections. Such registry shall be made publicly accessible through
11 official platforms and shall indicate the status, classification, and compliance
12 record of each political party;

13 (e) Transparency and Due Process. All proceedings related to registration,
14 accreditation, or cancellation shall observe due process, ensure transparency, and
15 provide reasonable opportunity for interested parties to be heard, subject to rules
16 issued by the COMELEC.

17 **SEC. 10. Disclosure of Party Membership.** – All registered voters shall be required
18 to indicate their political party membership, if any, during voter registration or during
19 the updating of voter records.

20 Based on the voter registration database, the COMELEC shall create and maintain an
21 official membership registry for each accredited political party. Each registry shall
22 contain (a) the name of every enrolled member; (b) the voter's declared party
23 affiliation; and (c) the date of enrollment, withdrawal, or change of affiliation.

24 The membership registry shall be regularly updated in accordance with changes in
25 voter records and shall serve as the official basis for determining party membership
26 for all purposes under this Act, Provided, That no citizen shall be compelled to join any
27 party, and Provided finally, That improper use or disclosure of membership data shall
28 constitute an election offense.

SEC. 11. Party Governance Structure. – Every registered political party shall establish and maintain core governance structures necessary to ensure internal democracy, ideological integrity, accountability, and effective administration. Political parties shall be free to adopt their own nomenclature for these bodies, Provided, That the functions prescribed herein are duly represented and operational within the party's organizational framework.

The structure and composition of these bodies shall reflect whether the party is registered as a national or regional political party. For national political parties, governance bodies shall exercise authority and maintain organizational presence across the party's nationwide constituencies, including all administrative regions where the party is organized. For regional political parties, governance bodies shall be constituted in a manner consistent with the territorial scope of the party, with authority extending across the majority of the provinces, cities, and localities within the region it seeks to represent.

(a) National or Regional Convention or Congress. — The party shall constitute a National Convention or Congress, or in the case of a regional party, a Regional Convention or Congress, which shall serve as its supreme policymaking body. It shall approve or amend the party platform, elect its national or regional executive officers, and determine the fundamental policies and strategic directions of the party;

(b) National or Regional Executive Committee — The party shall maintain a National Executive Committee or, for regional parties, a Regional Executive Committee, responsible for administration, day-to-day operations, strategic leadership, and the execution of decisions adopted by the Convention or Congress;

(c) Party Executive Officers — Each party shall elect or designate at least the following executive officers, who shall serve in accordance with the terms, qualifications, and procedures set forth in the party's constitution and by-laws, subject to the standards of this Act.:

(1) Party Chairperson, who shall preside over the Convention or Congress and exercise overall leadership;

1 (2) Party President, who shall function as the chief executive officer responsible
2 for day-to-day party management;

3 (3) Secretary General, who shall oversee administrative affairs, communications,
4 records, and internal coordination; and

5 (4) Treasurer, who shall administer party finances, ensure accountability of
6 funds, and submit required financial documents.

7 (d) Policy and Platform Committee. — Each party shall organize a Policy and Platform
8 Committee tasked with ideological development, policy research, and the
9 formulation, review, and updating of the party's platform and program of
10 government, whether national or regional in scope. It shall ensure alignment
11 between the party's declared ideology and its policy positions.

12 (e) Ethics and Compliance Board. — The party shall constitute an Ethics and
13 Compliance Board responsible for upholding ethical standards, enforcing party
14 discipline, resolving internal disputes, and adjudicating complaints against
15 members or officers within the party's jurisdictional scope.

16 (f) Political Education and Training Institute. — The party shall establish a Political
17 Education and Training Institute, or its functional equivalent, to provide political
18 education, membership formation, candidate and leadership development, and
19 other capacity-building programs tailored to the party's national or regional
20 mandate.

21 (g) Regional or Local Chapters. — National political parties shall maintain
22 democratically constituted regional, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay
23 chapters. Regional political parties shall maintain provincial, city, municipal, and
24 barangay chapters within their region. All chapters shall have duly elected officers
25 to ensure grassroots participation and effective political operations.

26 All governance bodies required herein shall operate in accordance with the procedures
27 set forth in the party's constitution and by-laws, subject to COMELEC supervision and
28 regulatory authority where appropriate under this Act.

1 **SEC. 12. Internal Democracy.** – Political parties shall ensure internal democracy
2 through periodic elections, transparent decision-making processes, and equitable
3 participation of members. Elections of officers shall be conducted through secret ballot
4 and shall be supervised by COMELEC when necessary. Parties shall adopt
5 mechanisms to safeguard the participation of women, youth, and marginalized
6 sectors, Provided, That not less than thirty percent (30%) of all leadership positions in
7 the party's national, regional, and local governing bodies shall be reserved for women.

8 Provided, further, That at least ten percent (10%) of such positions shall be reserved
9 for representatives of the youth and marginalized sectors, subject to the definitions
10 and qualifications set forth in the party's constitution and by-laws.

11 Provided, finally, That each of the sectors represented shall have at least one seat in
12 the party's principal governing bodies.

13 **SEC. 13. Intra-Party Disputes.** – All political parties shall establish clear, transparent,
14 and impartial internal arbitration mechanisms for the resolution of disputes arising from
15 party membership, leadership selection, nomination and endorsement processes,
16 disciplinary actions, and all other matters involving party governance. These
17 mechanisms shall operate as the primary and exclusive forum for adjudicating such
18 disputes and shall form an integral component of the party's disciplinary system.

19 Decisions of internal arbitration bodies shall be binding upon members and officials of
20 the party, subject only to appeal before the COMELEC in accordance with the
21 appellate and supervisory authority vested therein under this Act.

22 Recourse to the COMELEC may be undertaken solely upon the full exhaustion of all
23 available internal remedies, including review or reconsideration procedures
24 established in the party's constitution, by-laws, and disciplinary code. The COMELEC
25 shall exercise oversight to ensure that internal arbitration mechanisms comply with the
26 standards of due process, timeliness, impartiality, and reasonableness established in
27 this Act and in the implementing rules and regulations.

28 Provided, that the COMELEC shall not substitute its judgment for that of the party's
29 internal bodies on matters of party policy or internal management, except in cases

1 involving violations of constitutional rights, grave abuse of discretion, manifest
2 injustice, or violations of the provisions of this Act.

3 Provided further, that nothing herein shall preclude the COMELEC from directing
4 compliance with procedural requirements, ordering corrective measures, or imposing
5 administrative sanctions upon parties that fail to maintain, operationalize, or comply
6 with the internal arbitration mechanisms required under this Act.

7 TITLE IV

8 CONDUCT OF PARTY CONVENTIONS AND TRAINING, 9 SCREENING AND NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

10 **SEC. 14. Party Conventions.** — All political parties shall conduct national, regional,
11 and local conventions for the purpose of nominating candidates for elective office.
12 These conventions shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of procedure duly
13 developed, adopted, and published by the political party for the purpose of
14 nominations and internal elections. All such rules and procedures shall, at all times,
15 be consistent with the political party's duly registered constitution and by-laws.

16 Political parties shall ensure that their rules of procedure for conventions provide for
17 transparent, democratic, and secret-ballot processes; verified participation of
18 members; adequate notice; and clear standards for quorum, voting, and dispute
19 resolution, as may be appropriate to their organizational structure.

20 Conventions shall observe the following minimum requirements:

21 (a) **Public Announcement.** — The date, venue, and agenda of every convention shall
22 be publicly announced through mass media, electronic communication, or other
23 publicly accessible platforms not less than thirty (30) days before the convention,
24 unless COMELEC authorizes a shorter period for valid reasons.

25 (b) **COMELEC Supervision.** — All conventions shall be conducted under the
26 supervision or monitoring of the COMELEC, which may assign authorized
27 representatives to observe, inspect documents, verify compliance with internal
28 democratic procedures, and ensure conformity with election laws and the party's
29 constitution and by-laws.

1 (c) Verified Membership Participation. — Only verified, duly enrolled party members
2 listed in the official membership registry maintained by the COMELEC shall be
3 allowed to attend, participate, vote, or be nominated during conventions. Political
4 parties shall submit their updated membership list to the COMELEC at least fifteen
5 (15) days before the convention.

6 (d) Democratic and Secret-Ballot Procedures. — All nominations, elections, and other
7 decisions made during conventions shall be conducted through democratic,
8 transparent, and secret-ballot procedures, consistent with the internal rules
9 established under the party's constitution and by-laws and with applicable
10 COMELEC regulations.

11 (e) Submission of Convention Records. — Within five (5) days after the conclusion of
12 any convention, the political party shall transmit to the COMELEC complete
13 documentation of the proceedings, including the minutes, attendance records,
14 certifications of proper notice and quorum, and the results of nominations and
15 elections.

16 (f) COMELEC Certification of Nominations. — A nomination shall be valid only upon
17 COMELEC certification that the convention was conducted in accordance with the
18 Omnibus Election Code, this Act, relevant COMELEC regulations, and the political
19 party's constitution and by-laws.

20 **SEC. 15. Nomination Quota.** — A political party may nominate a candidate in any
21 constituency only upon demonstrating a sufficient and verifiable level of organized
22 membership in that constituency. For this purpose, no political party shall issue or
23 submit a nomination unless its verified membership within the constituency is
24 equivalent to at least one percent (1%) of the total number of registered voters therein,
25 as reflected in the official membership registry maintained by the COMELEC pursuant
26 to this Act.

27 For determining compliance with the required membership quota, the COMELEC shall
28 rely exclusively on the updated party membership registry provided under this Act,
29 including declarations of party affiliation made during voter registration or updating of
30 records. Only those individuals duly verified and recorded as members in the

1 COMELEC-maintained registry shall be counted for purposes of meeting the minimum
2 threshold.

3 A political party that fails to meet the required membership quota in a constituency
4 shall be barred from issuing a valid nomination therein. Any nomination submitted in
5 violation of this Section shall be null and void, and the nominated person shall not be
6 recognized as an official candidate of the party for that constituency.

7 This membership quota requirement shall be read in direct relation to the internal
8 democracy, party governance, and convention procedures mandated under this Act,
9 such that only parties with genuine, verifiable constituency presence and
10 democratically engaged membership may lawfully nominate candidates.

11 Accordingly, political parties shall ensure that their organizational presence, through
12 duly constituted regional, provincial, city, municipal, and barangay chapters, reflects
13 authentic and participatory membership strength in each constituency. Party
14 nominations, conventions, and internal selection procedures must be conducted
15 exclusively with verified members, ensuring that the membership quota corresponds
16 to real political support and organizational depth. Provided, That during the transition
17 period following the effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC may allow phased or
18 graduated compliance with the membership quota, taking into account the capacity of
19 political parties to reorganize, strengthen internal governance structures, and update
20 their membership records in accordance with the provisions of this Act. During such
21 transition period, the COMELEC may set reasonable interim thresholds, timelines, and
22 reporting requirements to ensure progressive and good-faith compliance.

23 Provided further, That failure to meet the required membership quota after the
24 expiration of the transition period shall render any nomination invalid and shall bar the
25 political party from nominating candidates in the affected constituency.

26 Provided finally, That no candidate may accept, nor shall any political party extend,
27 multiple nominations for the same elective position.

28 **SEC. 16. Nomination Requirements for Independent Candidates.** – An individual
29 who seeks to run as an independent candidate—who is not nominated, endorsed, or

1 affiliated with any registered political party—shall demonstrate sufficient, legitimate,
2 and verifiable support within the constituency where candidacy is sought.

3 For this purpose, an independent candidate shall submit endorsements from at least
4 three percent (3%) of the registered voters in the constituency. Such endorsements
5 shall serve as evidence of genuine community backing and shall function as the
6 independent candidate's functional equivalent to the organizational membership
7 requirements imposed upon political parties under the preceding sections.

8 Endorsements shall be submitted in the form and manner prescribed by the
9 COMELEC, and shall be subject to biometric or digital authentication, including but not
10 limited to the verification of signatures, voter identity, and voter registration status
11 through the official voter database. The COMELEC may require additional layers of
12 validation to prevent duplication, impersonation, or other fraudulent practices.

13 Upon full verification of the required endorsements, the COMELEC shall issue a
14 Certificate of Independent Nomination, without which the individual shall not be eligible
15 to file a certificate of candidacy as an independent candidate. The absence of such
16 certificate, or any attempt to file a candidacy without meeting this requirement, shall
17 render the candidacy void.

18 Fraudulent endorsements, tampering with voter information, use of forged or
19 manufactured identities, or any attempt to circumvent the authentication process shall
20 constitute grounds for disqualification, without prejudice to the filing of criminal,
21 administrative, or electoral offenses under applicable laws. The COMELEC shall
22 promulgate guidelines, timelines, and technological protocols to ensure that
23 endorsement verification is secure, accessible, efficient, transparent, and resistant to
24 fraud, while avoiding unnecessary burdens on bona fide independent aspirants.

25 An independent candidate shall not be permitted to join, affiliate with, or be admitted
26 into any political party until after the election in which such candidate seeks office has
27 been fully concluded and the results have been duly proclaimed.

28 **SEC. 17. Candidate Screening.** – The COMELEC shall prescribe minimum standards
29 for the screening and evaluation of candidates for elective office to uphold the integrity

1 of the electoral process and ensure that political parties exercise their nominating
2 authority in accordance with democratic principles. These standards shall serve as
3 baseline requirements for all political parties, without prejudice to the adoption of
4 additional or more stringent criteria under their respective constitutions and by-laws.

5 Political parties shall, at a minimum, conduct screening procedures that

6 (a) Verify a prospective nominee's legal qualifications and absence of
7 disqualifications;

8 (b) Confirm the nominee's good standing within the party for a period of not less than
9 one year preceding the nomination, lack of pending administrative or criminal
10 cases involving moral turpitude, and compliance with internal rules;

11 (c) Require the execution of a sworn statement affirming adherence to democratic
12 principles, the party's ideology and program of government, and ethical conduct in
13 public office;

14 (d) Assess the nominee's capacity to participate in party activities, including political
15 education and training programs; and

16 (e) Ensure that the entire process is carried out through transparent, documented
17 procedures capable of subsequent audit or verification by the COMELEC.

18 The COMELEC may require political parties to submit summaries of screening
19 proceedings, together with supporting documents, as part of the nomination papers
20 filed for any candidate. COMELEC may also direct political parties to make corrective
21 measures or impose administrative sanctions for failure to follow the minimum
22 standards prescribed herein.

23 **SEC. 18. Mandatory Training of Candidates.** – All candidates nominated by a
24 political party shall undergo and satisfactorily complete training programs designed to
25 ensure their readiness for public office, which shall include instruction on governance
26 principles, ethical conduct, public policy formulation, anti-corruption safeguards, and
27 sensitivity to the needs of various sectors of society. Political parties shall maintain

1 official records demonstrating each nominee's participation in and completion of such
2 training, and shall make these records available to the COMELEC upon request.

3 The COMELEC is hereby authorized to conduct audits, inspections, or other
4 verification measures to determine compliance and to ensure that political parties are
5 implementing substantive and meaningful training programs consistent with the
6 purposes of this Act. Failure to comply with these training requirements may constitute
7 grounds for administrative sanctions or limitations on a party's nominating privileges
8 as may be determined by the COMELEC pursuant to its regulatory authority.

9 10 TITLE V

11 POLITICAL TURNCOATISM

12 **SEC. 19. Political Turncoatism; Defined.** – Political turncoatism, for purposes of this
13 Act, refers to any act, conduct, or omission by an elected official, party officer, or
14 verified party member that constitutes a repudiation of the political party under which
15 they were elected, accredited, or officially affiliated. It covers both explicit and implicit
16 acts indicating abandonment of party loyalty, breach of party discipline, or departure
17 from the democratic accountability owed to voters who supported the candidate on the
18 basis of party representation.

19 Political turncoatism includes, but is not limited to:

20 (a) Voluntarily changing party affiliation after election. — This includes any act of
21 transferring membership from the political party under which an individual was
22 elected or nominated to another political party during the same electoral cycle,
23 except in cases expressly permitted under this Act;

24 (b) Resigning from one's party to join another. — This encompasses formal
25 resignation, withdrawal of membership, or cessation of affiliation undertaken for
26 the purpose of aligning with, joining, or participating in the activities of another
27 political party;

28 (c) Declaring independence without just cause. — A member's unilateral declaration
29 of independent status, absent grounds recognized by the party constitution and

by-laws or by this Act, shall be considered an act of turncoatism when it effectively severs party ties or undermines party unity;

(d) Accepting nomination, endorsement, or appointment from another political party.
— Any acceptance of candidacy, support, or assignment given by a party other than one's own, whether formal or informal, constitutes an express repudiation of original party affiliation;

(e) Participating in another party's affairs inconsistent with one's declared affiliation.
— This includes engaging in meetings, decision-making, campaign operations, organizational activities, or policy development of another political party in a manner that creates a conflict with one's existing affiliation or suggests loyalty to another party; and

(f) Implicit acts of repudiation—including conduct that, taken collectively, demonstrates abandonment of party loyalty, persistent violation of party discipline, open defiance of party directives, or sustained alignment with another party's interests—shall likewise be deemed acts of political turncoatism even in the absence of a formal declaration or written transfer.

SEC. 20. Penalties for Turncoatism. – Any elected official who commits political turncoatism, as defined in the preceding section, shall immediately forfeit his or her office upon a final determination by the COMELEC after due notice and hearing. Such official shall likewise be prohibited from running under the political party to which he or she transferred in the immediately succeeding elections and shall be barred from holding any leadership or administrative position within said party for the duration of the same electoral cycle. The said official shall also be required to return all party subsidies, campaign support, or material benefits previously received from the political party under which he or she was elected, subject to a surcharge or additional assessment as may be determined by the COMELEC in accordance with its regulatory authority.

These penalties shall not apply in cases where the political party of the elected official has been legally dissolved or has ceased to exist as accredited by the COMELEC, or when the official can demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the COMELEC, that the

1 change of affiliation was compelled by verified coercion, threats, harassment, or
2 expulsion without due process within the party. In such cases, the COMELEC may
3 grant exemption or impose lesser sanctions as justice and equity may require.

4 **SEC. 21. Party Liability for Inducing Turncoatism.** – Any political party that induces,
5 encourages, assists, facilitates, enables, or in any manner derives advantage from the
6 commission of political turncoatism shall be subject to administrative sanctions,
7 including the suspension or revocation of its accreditation, the forfeiture or withholding
8 of all or part of its public subsidy, and the invalidation of any nominations issued in
9 connection with the offending conduct.

10 When the acts of inducement, facilitation, or assistance are shown to have been
11 undertaken with the knowledge, authorization, direction, or acquiescence of party
12 officers, such officers shall be held personally liable and may be subject to
13 administrative, civil, or criminal prosecution as may be warranted under applicable
14 laws and regulations. These sanctions shall apply whether the inducement is express
15 or implied, direct or indirect, whether conveyed through formal party action or through
16 informal, covert, or tacit arrangements intended to circumvent or evade the
17 prohibitions of this Act.

18 The COMELEC shall investigate such violations motu proprio or upon verified petition,
19 exercise full authority to obtain documents and summon witnesses, and may impose
20 additional remedial measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of such violations,
21 ensure accountability within political parties and their leadership, strengthen
22 compliance mechanisms, and safeguard the integrity of the political party system
23 envisioned under this Act.

24 TITLE VI

25 POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT FUND, 26 CAMPAIGN FINANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

27 **SEC. 22. Accountability and Transparency in Political Financing.** – The State
28 affirms the central role of political parties as foundational institutions of democratic
29 governance, responsible for cultivating leadership, articulating public policy,

1 aggregating citizen interests, and ensuring the orderly transfer of political power.
2 Toward this end, the State shall undertake measures that strengthen political parties
3 by promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity in political financing;
4 discouraging clientelism, personality-driven politics, and patronage-based networks;
5 reducing dependence on private, excessive, or illicit funding sources; and ensuring
6 that all political actors operate within a fair, competitive, and rule-based electoral
7 environment.

8 Consistent with these commitments, the State shall encourage political parties to
9 deepen their investments in political education, civic engagement, policy research, and
10 the development of coherent, long-term, ideology-driven platforms and programs.
11 Political parties are hereby recognized as public institutions, whose
12 professionalization, stability, internal democracy, and policy-driven character are
13 indispensable to responsible leadership, effective representation, and sustainable
14 national development.

15 **Section 23. Political Party Development Fund (PPDF).** – In order to sustain these
16 objectives and provide institutional support that strengthens the country's party
17 system, there is hereby established a PPDF which shall function as a dedicated,
18 predictable, and continuing source of financial assistance for the institutional
19 development, democratic consolidation, and programmatic advancement of
20 accredited political parties.

21 The PPDF shall be used to ensure that political parties maintain permanent
22 organizational structures, conduct year-round policy work, uphold ethical and
23 democratic procedures, and promote citizen participation beyond electoral cycles. It
24 shall further support capacity-building for party officers and members, the
25 strengthening of local chapters, the conduct of civic and voter education, and the
26 development of platforms that are evidence-based, inclusive, and aligned with national
27 development goals

28 **SEC. 24. Creation of the National Political Party Development Board.** – The PPDF
29 shall be administered, allocated, and overseen by the National Political Party
30 Development Board, which shall be created under this Act as the independent
31 oversight and regulatory body for the management, implementation, and monitoring

1 of all subsidies granted through the Fund. The Board shall exercise full authority over
2 the formulation of subsidy guidelines; the evaluation of party compliance with
3 transparency and democratic standards; the approval or denial of subsidy
4 applications; the monitoring, inspection, and validation of the utilization of funds; the
5 enforcement of sanctions for misuse or violations; and the referral of potential
6 infractions to the Commission on Audit (COA), the COMELEC, or appropriate
7 prosecutorial agencies.

8 **SEC. 25. Composition of the National Political Party Development Board.** – The
9 Board shall be composed of the Chairperson of the COMELEC, who shall serve as
10 Chairperson of the Board, and ten (10) additional members representing political
11 parties through a proportional representation mechanism based on the certified results
12 of the most recent national electoral cycle. The proportional allocation shall reflect the
13 relative electoral strength of political parties as determined by votes cast or seats won,
14 as may be further defined in the implementing rules and regulations.

15 Members of the Board shall serve fixed terms to ensure continuity and stability in
16 oversight, and shall be required to adhere to strict standards of neutrality,
17 transparency, and ethical conduct. Provided, That no member of the Board shall
18 participate in deliberations or decisions involving a political party to which they belong,
19 and mechanisms shall be established to prevent conflicts of interest, undue influence,
20 or partisan bias in the administration of the Fund. Provided further, That the Board
21 shall submit an annual report on the utilization, status, and impact of the PPDF to
22 Congress and to the public.

23 **SEC. 26. Permanent Secretariat of the National Political Party Development**
24 **Board.** – The Board shall establish a Permanent Secretariat composed of
25 professional, technical, and administrative personnel appointed in accordance with
26 civil service laws, rules, and regulations. The Secretariat shall provide operational
27 continuity, maintain regulatory databases, assist in subsidy allocation and monitoring,
28 prepare Board issuances and reports, conduct research and policy analysis,
29 coordinate with the COMELEC, and perform such other functions as may be
30 necessary for the effective discharge of the Board's mandate. The Board may also

1 contract external experts, consultants, and auditors for specialized tasks, subject to
2 government procurement laws.

3 The Board is hereby authorized to adopt an internal organizational structure, which
4 may include divisions or units responsible for subsidy management, compliance
5 monitoring, financial audit, enforcement coordination, data and digital systems, legal
6 affairs, policy and research, and administrative services. The Board shall promulgate
7 its internal rules of procedure within sixty (60) days from convening, including the rules
8 governing hearings, audits, inspections, reporting obligations, and coordination with
9 COMELEC and other government agencies.

10 To ensure transparency, accountability, and effective public oversight, the Board shall
11 annually submit to COMELEC, the Department of Budget and Management, and the
12 Congressional Oversight Committee a detailed statement of expenditures,
13 performance indicators, operational accomplishments, and financial utilization reports,
14 together with audited statements from the COA. Provided, That the Board's budget
15 execution documents and financial records shall be deemed public documents and
16 shall be made available for inspection in accordance with law.

17 **SEC. 27. Allowable Utilization of the PPDF.** – The PPDF shall be utilized exclusively
18 for party development activities that advance the institutionalization,
19 professionalization, and democratic strengthening of accredited political parties.
20 These activities shall include, but shall not be limited to: political organization and the
21 maintenance of permanent, functioning party structures; institutional strengthening
22 and modernization programs; political education and civic literacy initiatives directed
23 toward members and the general public; policy research, platform formulation, and the
24 development of coherent legislative and governance programs; the training, formation,
25 and professional development of candidates, officers, staff, and members;
26 administrative and managerial capacity-building for national, regional, and local party
27 chapters; and the conduct of compliant, transparent, and accountable campaign
28 operations strictly in accordance with the standards, safeguards, and limitations
29 prescribed under this Act and other applicable laws.

30 No portion of the Fund shall be used for vote buying, partisan coercion, personal
31 expenses, or any act prohibited under existing law. Misuse, diversion, or fraudulent

1 reporting of subsidies shall result in suspension from the Fund, without prejudice to
2 administrative, civil, or criminal liability.

3 The Fund shall be automatically appropriated in the annual General Appropriations
4 Act, shall constitute a continuing and non-lapsing special account, and shall remain
5 available until fully expended. Its utilization shall be subject to regular audit by the
6 COA, acting through the mechanisms, reporting systems, and oversight processes
7 established by the National Political Party Development Board.

8 **SEC. 28. Types of Subsidies.** – Accredited political parties that satisfy the
9 requirements of transparency, internal democracy, financial reporting, and ethical
10 conduct as provided in this Act shall be eligible to receive subsidies from the PPDF in
11 the following forms:

12 (a) Operational Subsidy, which shall provide annual support for essential party
13 operations, including but not limited to, the maintenance of national and local
14 headquarters; salaries, benefits, and training of professional staff; administrative
15 and logistical operations; information and communications technology
16 infrastructure; membership development and grassroots organizing; research,
17 data generation, and publication of policy materials; and the establishment,
18 expansion, and strengthening of local party chapters and sectoral units;

19 (b) Election Subsidy, which shall be released at least thirty days before the start of
20 election periods to support lawful and regulated campaign activities, including but
21 not limited to, voter education and civic information programs; participation in
22 official debates, dialogues, and public fora; party communications and information
23 campaigns; candidate recruitment, preparation, and training; volunteer safety,
24 security, and logistical support; and full compliance with disclosure,
25 documentation, auditing, and transparency requirements mandated by this Act and
26 by the COMELEC; and

27 (c) Performance-Based Subsidy, which shall be awarded in recognition of measurable
28 performance and adherence to democratic and programmatic standards. The
29 subsidy shall be determined on the basis of indicators such as electoral
30 performance in national and local elections; compliance with transparency, ethics,

1 and internal democracy requirements; demonstrated vitality and activity of
2 grassroots and local party chapters; sustained engagement in political education
3 and civic literacy; gender and youth inclusion in party leadership and programs;
4 absence of violations relating to turncoatism; and the quality, relevance, and timely
5 submission of party platforms, policy proposals, and governance programs.

6 **SEC. 29. Formula for the Allocation of Subsidies.** – The annual subsidy from the
7 PPDF shall be allocated in accordance with a balanced and criteria-based formula
8 designed to strengthen party institutionalization, promote compliance with democratic
9 standards, and reward verifiable performance. For this purpose, the total annual PPDF
10 shall be apportioned as follows: thirty percent (30%) for the Operational Subsidy, forty
11 percent (40%) for the Election Subsidy, and thirty percent (30%) for the Performance-
12 Based Subsidy. These proportions are hereby established to ensure that political
13 parties are consistently supported in both their year-round institutional work and their
14 periodic electoral responsibilities, while also encouraging the maintenance of
15 transparent, accountable, and platform-driven party systems.

16 Within each subsidy category, allocations to eligible political parties shall be made on
17 the basis of a proportional and evidence-based formula. The Political Party
18 Development Board shall determine the specific amounts to be granted to each party
19 by taking into account measurable indicators including, but not limited to the:

- 20 (a) Number of verified and duly registered party members as reflected in periodic
21 membership audits;
- 22 (b) Number and activity level of accredited party chapters with demonstrated
23 organizational operations; the number of votes garnered by the party in the most
24 recent national and local electoral exercises, as certified by the COMELEC;
- 25 (c) Organizational compliance record of each party, including timely submission of
26 financial reports, adherence to internal democratic processes, and observance of
27 transparency and ethics standards; and
- 28 (d) Absence of major or unresolved violations of this Act, of election laws, or of party
29 accountability requirements.

1 In applying the proportional formula, the Board shall ensure that the allocation
2 mechanism is transparent, equitable, and reflective of the actual strength, reach, and
3 compliance performance of each political party. Provided, That no political party shall
4 receive allocations from any subsidy category if it is under temporary suspension,
5 pending investigation for grave violations, or subject to an enforceable sanction under
6 this Act. Provided further, That the Board may revise or refine the weighting of
7 indicators within each category, subject to public consultation and publication.

8 The COMELEC, through the Political Party Development Board, shall publish,
9 disclose, and annually update the complete subsidy allocation formula, including any
10 revisions to criteria, weighting, or computation, on its official website and in at least
11 two newspapers of general circulation. The published formula shall include the
12 methodology for proportional distribution, the documentation required for verification,
13 and the procedures for appeal or reconsideration. Such publication shall form part of
14 the official record for audit, oversight, and public transparency.

15 **SEC. 30. Donations and Contributions.** – Political parties may receive donations,
16 contributions, or in-kind assistance only from lawful, ethical, and fully identifiable
17 sources, consistent with the principles of transparency, accountability, and democratic
18 integrity mandated under this Act.

19 All contributions must originate from donors whose identities, citizenship, and interests
20 are fully disclosed and verifiable; whose involvement does not create an actual or
21 perceived conflict of interest; and whose donations do not compromise the
22 independence of the political party or distort the fairness of electoral competition.
23 Provided, That no political party shall accept any contribution intended to secure
24 favorable treatment, legislative advantage, regulatory leniency, or influence over
25 governmental decision-making. Provided further, That all contributions shall be made
26 through documented, traceable, and legally sanctioned financial channels.

27 **SEC. 31. Permitted Donors.** – Political parties may accept contributions only from the
28 following permitted donors:

29 (a) Natural-born Filipino citizens whose identities and citizenship have been duly
30 verified;

- 1 (b) Filipino-owned or Filipino-controlled corporations possessing at least sixty percent
2 Filipino ownership and in good standing with relevant regulatory bodies;
- 3 (c) Duly registered cooperatives acting within their lawful mandates and not engaged
4 in prohibited industries;
- 5 (d) Accredited civil society organizations, non-profit advocacy groups, and people's
6 organizations that have authorized such donations through formal resolutions;
- 7 (e) Sectoral and grassroots organizations, including but not limited to youth, women,
8 labor, peasant, fisherfolk, indigenous, religious, and professional groups; and
- 9 (f) Small donors contributing not more than ten thousand pesos in aggregate within
10 an election cycle, whose identities are duly recorded in a small donor registry.
11 Provided, That any donation from a permitted donor shall still be subject to the
12 contribution limits, reporting requirements, and verification procedures established
13 under this Act.

14 **SEC. 32. Prohibited Donors.** – Political parties are strictly prohibited from accepting
15 contributions from the following prohibited donors:

- 16 (a) Foreign individuals, foreign governments, foreign political organizations, foreign-
17 controlled corporations, and foreign-influenced entities, whether such
18 contributions are given directly or indirectly;
- 19 (b) Anonymous donors or contributions made under circumstances designed to
20 conceal or obscure the identity of the actual donor;
- 21 (c) Government-owned or controlled corporations, including subsidiaries and
22 affiliates; public utilities,
- 23 (d) Franchise holders, concessionaires, and any entity operating in a sector subject to
24 significant governmental regulation;
- 25 (e) Persons or corporations with pending applications, permits, or regulatory cases
26 before any national or local government agency at the time of donation;
- 27 (f) Gambling operators or entities engaged in gaming activities of any form;

1 (g) Tobacco, alcohol, and mining corporations with pending or unresolved
2 administrative, fiscal, or regulatory violations;

3 (h) Banks, lending institutions, or financial entities offering loans or contributions under
4 preferential, coercive, or otherwise irregular terms; and

5 (i) Any other individual or entity prohibited under election, anti-corruption, anti-money
6 laundering, anti-terrorist financing, or public accountability laws.

7 Any contribution received from a prohibited donor shall be immediately forfeited in
8 favor of the State; Provided, That responsible party officers shall be liable for
9 administrative, civil, or criminal penalties as prescribed in this Act.

10 **SEC. 33. Contribution Limits.** – Contribution limits shall be set and periodically
11 reviewed by the COMELEC based on inflation, prevailing economic conditions,
12 comparative international standards, and documented campaign expenditure trends,
13 with the objective of preserving electoral integrity while ensuring meaningful political
14 participation.

15 Until such time that the Commission formally adjusts the limits, the following
16 contribution ceilings shall apply per election cycle:

17 (a) Individuals may contribute up to One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00) in aggregate
18 to a political party or candidate;

19 (b) Corporations and other juridical persons, where allowed by law, may contribute up
20 to Five Million Pesos (₱5,000,000.00) in aggregate, subject to compliance with all
21 applicable disclosure and governance requirements.

22 Provided, That all contributions, whether monetary or in-kind, shall be fully disclosed
23 and reported in accordance with this Act and existing election laws;

24 Provided, further, That all in-kind contributions shall be assessed and recorded at fair
25 market value at the time of donation;

1 Provided, further, That no cash contribution exceeding Ten Thousand Pesos
2 (₱10,000.00) per transaction shall be accepted, and all contributions above this
3 threshold shall be made through traceable financial instruments or electronic means;

4 Provided, finally, That no contribution shall be structured, subdivided, coursed through
5 intermediaries, or otherwise arranged in a manner that circumvents or evades the
6 limits and disclosure requirements prescribed herein.

7 **SEC. 34. Expenditure Ceilings.** – Political parties shall observe expenditure ceilings
8 to prevent excessive campaign spending and safeguard electoral fairness. Unless
9 revised by the COMELEC, total campaign expenditures for positions shall not exceed
10 twenty pesos per registered voter nationwide, while total campaign expenditures for
11 local positions shall not exceed ten pesos per registered voter in the locality
12 concerned.

13 Provided, That all expenditures, whether monetary or in-kind, shall be fully
14 documented, receipted, and recorded;

15 Provided further, That such expenditures shall form part of the party's financial
16 statements subject to audit by the COA.

17 **SEC. 35. Public Financial Disclosure System.** – Every political party shall establish
18 and maintain a public financial disclosure system, accessible to the public through
19 both physical and electronic platforms, containing all disclosures required under this
20 Act. Donations exceeding fifty thousand pesos shall be posted within five days of
21 receipt, indicating the donor's name, the amount contributed, the date of receipt, and
22 the corresponding receipt or acknowledgment reference.

23 Political parties shall:

24 (a) Submit quarterly financial statements to the COMELEC;

25 (b) Publish annual audited financial statements certified by an independent external
26 auditor;

27 (c) Issue official receipts for every contribution regardless of amount;

- 1 (d) Maintain exclusive bank accounts for political party operations; and
- 2 (e) Adopt digital bookkeeping and accounting systems certified by the Commission for
- 3 uniform accountability.

4 All financial records of registered political parties shall be preserved for not less than

5 ten years; Provided, That the party shall establish an internal compliance mechanism

6 to detect and report suspicious contributions; Provided further, That any failure to

7 comply with the transparency and reporting requirements under this Section shall

8 result in the withholding, suspension, or reduction of subsidies under the Political Party

9 Development Fund, without prejudice to administrative and criminal liability.

10

11 TITLE VII

12 INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT

13 **SEC. 36. Mechanisms for Inclusive Political Party Development.** – The COMELEC

14 and other relevant agencies, shall establish, implement, and periodically update a

15 comprehensive system of support measures to promote political pluralism and enable

16 the effective participation of emerging and developing political parties in governance

17 and public life.

18 For this purpose, the COMELEC shall:

- 19 (a) Design and administer programs that strengthen the institutional capacity of
- 20 political parties across varying levels of development, including support for
- 21 organizational sustainability, internal governance systems, and policy
- 22 development processes;
- 23 (b) Prescribe standards and mechanisms to ensure internal democracy within political
- 24 parties, including participatory decision-making, transparent leadership selection,
- 25 and accountability of party officers to their membership;
- 26 (c) Provide or facilitate equitable access to public resources, support mechanisms,
- 27 and regulatory frameworks necessary for political parties to participate

1 meaningfully in electoral processes, legislative engagement, and policy
2 formulation;

3 (d) Establish guidelines to ensure that access to such support is administered in a fair,
4 transparent, and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account the varying
5 capacities of political parties;

6 (e) Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that all forms
7 of support extended under this Act are utilized in accordance with principles of
8 accountability, transparency, and democratic integrity.

9 All political parties availing of support under this Act shall comply with prescribed
10 standards on financial disclosure, internal governance, and public accountability, as
11 may be determined by the COMELEC consistent with this Act and other applicable
12 laws.

13 **SEC. 37. Definition of Emerging and Developing Political Parties.** – For purposes
14 of this Act, Emerging and Developing Political Parties refer to duly registered political
15 parties that are in the early or intermediate stages of institutional development and
16 meet any of the following criteria in the immediately preceding electoral cycle:

17 (a) Obtained less than ten percent (10%) of the total valid votes cast in national
18 elections, whether for presidential, vice-presidential, senatorial, or party-list
19 positions;

20 (b) Held not more than five (5) elective national positions, including but not limited to
21 seats in the Senate, House of Representatives, or other nationally elected offices;
22 or

23 (c) Are newly registered and have participated in not more than two (2) national
24 elections, regardless of electoral performance.

25 In determining such classification, due consideration shall be given to both quantitative
26 and qualitative indicators of party development, including organizational reach,
27 membership base, internal governance systems, and demonstrated participation in
28 electoral and policy processes.

1 The COMELEC shall establish and maintain a clear, transparent, and periodically
2 updated classification system for political parties for purposes of implementing this
3 Act. Such classification shall be publicly accessible to ensure clarity, fairness, and
4 consistency in the application of support measures provided under this Act.

5 **SEC. 38. Minimum Guaranteed Allocation from the Political Party Development**
6 **Fund.** – Emerging and developing political parties, shall be entitled to receive a
7 minimum guaranteed allocation from the PPDF. Such allocation shall be sufficient to
8 support essential party functions, including but not limited to basic organizational
9 operations, administrative requirements, compliance with regulatory standards, and
10 the development of policy platforms.

11 The guaranteed allocation shall ensure that all political parties, regardless of size or
12 electoral performance, possess the minimum institutional capacity necessary to
13 operate effectively, comply with legal obligations, and contribute to democratic
14 discourse.

15 No eligible political party shall be excluded from access to public funding solely on the
16 basis of electoral size, vote share, or current representation, provided that such party
17 complies with the requirements of this Act, including registration and accreditation,
18 transparency, reporting, and internal governance standards.

19 The release, utilization, and monitoring of such funds shall be subject to clear
20 guidelines to ensure accountability, efficiency, and alignment with the objectives of
21 political party development.

22 **SEC. 39. Institutional Capacity-Building Support.** – Emerging and developing
23 political parties shall be eligible for targeted institutional capacity-building support
24 designed to strengthen their organizational foundations and enable effective
25 participation in democratic processes. Such support may include assistance in internal
26 governance systems and democratic processes; policy research, development, and
27 platform formulation; membership development and grassroots organization; financial
28 management, auditing, and compliance systems; and digital, administrative, and
29 operational infrastructure.

1 Such support may be delivered directly or through accredited non-partisan institutions,
2 provided that assistance remains impartial and aligned with democratic principles.

3 **SEC. 40. Support for Regional and Sectoral Party Development.** – Emerging and
4 developing political parties with regional or sectoral orientations shall be eligible for
5 targeted assistance to support organizational expansion, policy specialization, and the
6 establishment of local chapters. Such support shall enable these parties to effectively
7 represent diverse constituencies and contribute to inclusive national policymaking. All
8 assistance shall be consistent with principles of inclusivity, equity, and democratic
9 participation.

10 **SEC. 41. Equitable Access to Public Information and Party Education Platforms.**
11 – Emerging and developing political parties shall be ensured equitable access to
12 State-supported voter education programs, official policy forums, and public
13 information platforms. Access shall be governed by content-neutral, transparent, and
14 time-bound rules, ensuring fair opportunity for participation and engagement. The
15 State shall promote these platforms to encourage issue-based discourse and informed
16 voter choice.

17 **SEC. 42. Proportional Compliance Requirements.** – Compliance and reporting
18 requirements shall be applied in a proportional manner, taking into account the size
19 and organizational capacity of political parties, including emerging and developing
20 political parties. The COMELEC shall establish tiered compliance systems, including
21 simplified reporting mechanisms where appropriate, while maintaining standards of
22 transparency and accountability.

23 **SEC. 43. Political Party Incubation and Mentorship Program.** – The COMELEC
24 shall establish a Political Party Incubation and Mentorship Program to support
25 emerging and developing political parties, in coordination with accredited academic
26 and civil society institutions.

27 The program shall provide technical assistance, institutional guidance, and structured
28 capacity-building support to accelerate party development and ensure compliance
29 with democratic standards.

1 Participation shall remain voluntary and shall preserve party independence.

3 TITLE VIII

4 PROHIBITED ACTS AND PENALTIES

5 **SEC. 44. Prohibited Acts.** – It shall be unlawful for any political party, party officer,
6 party member, candidate, contributor, or any natural or juridical person acting for or
7 on behalf of a political party, whether directly or indirectly, to commit any act that
8 undermines the integrity of party governance, distorts democratic processes,
9 compromises financial accountability, or obstructs the lawful supervision of the
10 COMELEC.

11 The following acts, whether consummated, attempted, or conspired in, are hereby
12 declared prohibited:

13 (a) Fraudulent membership registration, which shall include the fabrication, padding,
14 duplication, manipulation, or unauthorized alteration of party membership lists; the
15 registration of fictitious, deceased, or non-consenting individuals; the procurement
16 or use of forged documents to support membership claims; or any act designed to
17 misrepresent the actual membership strength of the political party for purposes of
18 accreditation, subsidy allocation, or internal elections;

19 (b) Falsification of party records, which shall include the alteration, destruction,
20 concealment, or fabrication of any document, ledger, digital file, financial
21 statement, convention record, organizational report, or certification required under
22 this Act or by the COMELEC; the willful omission of material facts; and the creation
23 or use of fraudulent certifications or attestations in any official submission;

24 (c) Coercion, intimidation, undue influence, or harassment of delegates, members,
25 officers, candidates, or participants in any party assembly, convention, nomination
26 process, internal election, or decision-making procedure, including the use of
27 threats, violence, economic pressure, promises of financial reward, or any form of
28 manipulation designed to secure allegiance, votes, or compliance;

- 1 (d) Manipulation, interference, or subversion of conventions, including the rigging of
2 delegate credentials; tampering with voting systems or ballots; orchestrating sham
3 conventions; coercion, vote-buying, bribery, or undue influence; suppressing or
4 preventing the participation of qualified members; participation of non-members or
5 disqualified persons; pre-determining outcomes through fraudulent means;
6 violence, intimidation or any act intended to defeat, distort, or undermine the
7 democratic nature of party conventions, assemblies, or internal elections or the
8 integrity of the nomination process;
- 9 (e) Submission of false, incomplete, misleading, or fraudulent financial reports,
10 whether quarterly, annual, or election-related; the failure to disclose donations or
11 expenditures; the concealment of beneficial ownership of contributions; the failure
12 to maintain exclusive political party bank accounts; or any practice intended to
13 evade the financial transparency requirements imposed under this Act;
- 14 (f) Misuse, diversion, or misappropriation of subsidies received from the Political
15 Party Development Fund, including the use of such subsidies for unlawful
16 purposes; for personal or private benefit; for activities explicitly prohibited by this
17 Act or by COMELEC regulations; or for expenditures inconsistent with the internal
18 development, educational, or programmatic purposes for which the subsidy was
19 granted;
- 20 (g) Acceptance, solicitation, facilitation, or concealment of illegal donations, including
21 donations from prohibited donors; contributions exceeding statutory limits;
22 anonymous or laundered funds; foreign-sourced donations; or funds delivered
23 through intermediaries, agents, shell entities, straw persons, or any arrangement
24 intended to obscure donor identity or circumvent statutory prohibitions;
- 25 (h) Obstruction, interference with, or resistance to the lawful supervision, monitoring,
26 inspection, audit, inquiry, or enforcement functions of the COMELEC or the
27 National Political Party Development Board, including refusal to submit required
28 records; destruction or withholding of documents; failure to make financial systems
29 accessible; providing false or misleading information to supervisory authorities; or
30 any act that prevents, delays, or hampers regulatory oversight;

Any nomination issued in violation of the requirements of this Section or without COMELEC certification shall be null and void. Upon finding of violations, the COMELEC may impose administrative sanctions, including fines, suspension of party privileges, or cancellation of accreditation for repeated or grave offenses;

Section 45. Penalties — Any person, political party, or juridical entity found to have committed any of the prohibited acts defined under this Act, including any act that undermines the integrity of party governance, falsifies internal democratic processes, compromises financial transparency, or obstructs lawful regulatory oversight, shall be liable under this Section, without prejudice to prosecution under the Omnibus Election Code, the Revised Penal Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Anti-Money Laundering Act, or any other applicable special laws.

Any natural person adjudged guilty of an offense under this Act shall suffer imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years, and shall not be eligible for probation pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 968. Such penalty shall carry with it perpetual disqualification to hold any public office, vote or be voted for in any election, and serve as officer, member, representative, or agent of any political party or political organization.

Any political party adjudged liable for the commission of offenses under this Act shall be subject to administrative sanctions, which may include:

(a) Suspension of accreditation for a period to be determined by the COMELEC;

(b) Suspension, reduction, or permanent forfeiture of subsidies under the Political Party Development Fund;

(c) Disqualification from receiving any form of State subsidy for one or more electoral cycles;

(d) Cancellation of accreditation in cases involving grave, repeated, systemic, or deliberate violations;

(e) Freezing of party bank accounts or financial instruments for the duration of investigation; and

(f) Disqualification from participation in the forthcoming electoral exercise should the violation involve fraudulent conventions, large-scale falsification of records, or manipulation of internal electoral processes.

Where the offense involves the misuse, diversion, or misappropriation of subsidies under the Political Party Development Fund, the political party and its responsible officers shall be solidarily liable to reimburse or return to the State the full amount misused, including interest and surcharges as may be determined by the COA. Provided, That where the offense involves acceptance of prohibited donations, the entire amount donated shall be forfeited in favor of the State, and the responsible individuals shall incur additional liability under applicable election, anti-graft, and anti-money laundering laws.

SEC. 46. Aggravating Circumstances. – The penalties prescribed under this Act shall be increased to their maximum period when the offense is attended by any of the following aggravating circumstances:

(a) When the act involves large-scale fraud, defined as affecting ten percent (10%) or more of the verified party membership, or involving an amount exceeding five million pesos (P5,000,000);

(b) When the act is committed by a high-ranking party officer, including the party president, secretary-general, treasurer, or any national officer entrusted with financial or organizational authority;

(c) When the violation involves the use of violence, intimidation, coercion, threats, or harassment against delegates, members, officers, or candidates;

(d) When the act materially affects the determination of party leadership, nomination of candidates, or outcome of party conventions;

(e) When the act is committed using digital manipulation, cyber fraud, data tampering, or interference with electronic systems required under this Act;

(f) When minors, vulnerable persons, or marginalized groups are exploited to facilitate, conceal, or justify the unlawful act;

1 (g) When the act results in the obstruction of COMELEC supervision, destruction of
2 audit documents, or suppression of required disclosures; and

3 (h) When the offense is committed repeatedly, systematically, or by an organized
4 group within or outside the political party.

5 In the presence of any aggravating circumstance, the COMELEC may additionally
6 impose enhanced administrative sanctions, including multi-cycle disqualification from
7 subsidies, heightened financial monitoring, mandatory external audits, or appointment
8 of a temporary compliance administrator.

9 **SEC. 47. Attempt, Conspiracy, Accomplice Liability, Continuing and Separate**
10 **Liability.** – Any person who attempts to commit any offense under this Act, including
11 but not limited to attempts to falsify records, induce prohibited donations, manipulate
12 conventions, or destroy audit trails, shall suffer penalties one degree lower than those
13 prescribed for the consummated offense.

14 Any person who conspires with one or more persons to commit an offense under this
15 Act, whether by planning, agreement, or coordinated action, shall be liable as a
16 principal and shall suffer the same penalties imposed upon the actual perpetrator.
17 Provided, That conspiracy shall be presumed where two or more persons cooperate
18 with knowledge of the unlawful purpose.

19 Any person who aids, abets, assists, facilitates, or cooperates in the commission of
20 any offense, or who provides material support, concealment, false certification, or
21 financial assistance to enable the violation, shall be liable as an accomplice, and shall
22 be punished with penalties two degrees lower than those prescribed for principals.

23 Any officer of a political party who, through gross negligence, willful blindness, or
24 reckless disregard, permits an offense to occur within the party or fails to prevent
25 violations despite actual knowledge or reasonable opportunity to intervene, shall
26 likewise be held liable as an accomplice.

27 Administrative, civil, and criminal liability under this Act shall be separate, distinct, and
28 cumulative. The imposition of administrative sanctions shall not bar criminal
29 prosecution, nor shall criminal conviction preclude the imposition of civil damages or

1 restitution. Political parties shall be held liable for the acts of their officers acting within
2 the scope of their authority, without prejudice to personal liability of the officers
3 concerned.

4 **SEC. 48. Powers of the COMELEC.** – The COMELEC shall retain its constitutional
5 mandate over the supervision of political parties and electoral processes, including:

6 (a) Issuance of rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act;

7 (b) Approval, suspension, or cancellation of political party accreditation;

8 (c) Review and audit of financial statements, contribution disclosures, and
9 expenditure reports;

10 (d) Conduct of investigations motu proprio or upon verified complaint;

11 (e) Examination of books, bank accounts, electronic records, documents, and all
12 supporting files of political parties;

13 (f) Issuance of subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, and other compulsory
14 processes; and the imposition of administrative sanctions authorized herein.

15 The COMELEC shall maintain full authority to refer violations to the COA, the Anti-
16 Money Laundering Council, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the
17 Ombudsman, or any other competent authority as circumstances require.

18 **SEC. 49. Powers of the National Political Party Development Board** – The
19 National Political Party Development Board shall exercise primary authority over the
20 administration, allocation, monitoring, and evaluation of subsidies under the Political
21 Party Development Fund. In connection with such authority, the Board shall have the
22 power to:

23 (a) Prescribe binding guidelines on subsidy eligibility, disbursement, utilization,
24 liquidation, and reporting;

25 (b) Verify party compliance with transparency obligations, membership integrity,
26 internal democratic processes, and ethical conduct requirements;

1 (c) Conduct performance audits and organizational assessments; examine and
2 validate the books, accounts, and internal financial systems of political parties;

3 (d) Demand production of documents or digital records necessary for monitoring or
4 investigation; and

5 (e) Suspend, withhold, reduce, or forfeit subsidies in accordance with this Act.

6 The Board may conduct on-site inspections of party headquarters, offices, chapters,
7 or facilities, and may require the presence of responsible officers to explain or clarify
8 matters under review.

9 **SEC. 50. Joint Enforcement Powers of the COMELEC and the National Political**
10 **Party Development Board.** – To ensure the faithful implementation of this Act, the
11 COMELEC and the National Political Party Development Board (the Board) shall
12 exercise joint and complementary regulatory, supervisory, investigatory, auditing, and
13 enforcement powers over political parties, their officers, members, candidates, donors,
14 and all persons or entities acting in their behalf. Their joint authority shall extend to all
15 matters involving party accreditation, internal democracy, financial reporting, use of
16 subsidies, conventions, membership integrity, organizational compliance, and all acts
17 regulated under this Act.

18 The COMELEC and the Board may issue compliance directives requiring political
19 parties to correct deficiencies, update disclosures, amend financial statements, hold
20 corrective conventions, reorganize internal structures, or undertake remedial
21 measures to ensure compliance with this Act. Failure to comply within the prescribed
22 period shall constitute an independent ground for sanctions. Both bodies are
23 authorized to promulgate implementing rules and regulations, adopt performance
24 metrics, establish compliance monitoring systems, require digital reporting platforms,
25 and impose reasonable administrative fees or charges for supervision, auditing, and
26 certification processes. Provided, That all implementing rules shall be published and
27 subjected to public consultation prior to effectivity.

28 The enforcement powers under this Section shall be continuing in nature, and may be
29 exercised before, during, or after any election cycle. Administrative liability imposed

pursuant to the authority herein granted shall be without prejudice to criminal, civil, or electoral cases arising from the same act or omission.

SEC. 51. Procedures for Investigation and Adjudication. – The COMELEC and the Board may jointly or separately initiate administrative proceedings for violations of this Act. Proceedings may be initiated motu proprio, by verified complaint, or upon formal referral from the COA, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Ombudsman, or any other competent authority.

They shall have the authority to hold hearings; summon witnesses; receive documentary, electronic, and testimonial evidence; administer oaths; compel production of documents; and issue compliance orders, show-cause directives, and cease-and-desist orders. Provided, That they may adopt summary procedures for uncomplicated cases, including late filings, incomplete disclosures, or minor reporting violations; Provided further, That complex cases involving fraud, falsification, financial irregularities, or manipulation of internal party processes shall require formal administrative adjudication subject to due process requirements.

The COMELEC and the Board shall adopt, promulgate, and implement uniform, transparent, and expeditious procedures for the investigation, hearing, and adjudication of complaints, violations, and administrative matters arising under this Act. For this purpose, they shall issue joint rules of procedure governing investigations, hearings, the presentation and evaluation of evidence, service of process, appeals, and the enforcement of decisions, which shall take effect only after due publication and the conduct of public consultations. Such rules shall be interpreted liberally in favor of transparency, accountability, and the protection and strengthening of democratic processes.

SEC. 52. Coordination with the COA. – Both the COMELEC and the Board shall coordinate with the COA for all matters involving the tracing, audit, validation, and liquidation of subsidies, including examination of bank accounts and financial instruments used for party operations. The COA shall provide audit findings and recommendations to the COMELEC and the Board, which shall form part of the basis for administrative sanctions, subsidy forfeiture, or referral for criminal prosecution.

1 **SEC. 53. Filing of Complaints.** – Any person or entity filing a complaint shall execute
2 a verified complaint stating the facts, relevant documents, supporting evidence, and
3 specific provisions of law allegedly violated. The COMELEC or the Board shall, within
4 ten (10) days from receipt of the complaint, determine whether it is sufficient in form
5 and substance. Should the complaint be sufficient, the concerned body shall issue a
6 Show Cause Order requiring the respondent political party, officer, member, donor, or
7 other responsible person to submit a verified answer and supporting evidence within
8 ten (10) days from receipt thereof. Provided, That failure to answer within the
9 prescribed period shall be construed as a waiver of the right to be heard and shall
10 authorize the Commission or the Board to resolve the case based on available
11 evidence.

12 **SEC. 54. Preliminary Investigation.** – Upon the filing of the verified answer or the
13 lapse of the period to file the same, the COMELEC or the Board may conduct
14 preliminary investigation through fact-finding inquiries, document examination,
15 financial audits, or sworn statements from parties or witnesses. For this purpose, the
16 COMELEC and the Board shall have the power to issue subpoenas, subpoenas duces
17 tecum, and compliance orders requiring the production of books, certified records,
18 audit trails, bank statements, digital files, or other material evidence. Provided further,
19 That refusal to comply with such directives shall constitute an independent offense
20 under this Act.

21 **SEC. 55. Proceedings.** – If probable cause is established, the COMELEC or the
22 Board shall docket the matter as a formal administrative case and shall notify all parties
23 of the issues to be resolved. A pre-hearing conference may be conducted to simplify
24 issues, determine the admissibility of evidence, stipulate facts, and schedule hearings.
25 Hearings shall be conducted in a summary yet orderly manner, and the technical rules
26 of evidence shall not strictly apply; however, parties shall be accorded full due process,
27 including the rights to counsel, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, and
28 to file memoranda within periods prescribed by the COMELEC or the Board.

29 The COMELEC or the Board shall decide administrative cases within ninety (90) days
30 from submission for resolution, unless the complexity of issues, the volume of
31 evidence, or the presence of multiple respondents justifies an extension not exceeding

1 sixty (60) days, which must be publicly disclosed and justified in writing. Decisions
2 shall contain findings of fact, conclusions of law, and the specific sanctions imposed.
3 A copy shall be furnished to the parties, the COA, the Ombudsman, the Anti-Money
4 Laundering Council, or other relevant agencies where appropriate.

5 **SEC. 56. Motion for Reconsideration.** – Any party adversely affected by a final
6 administrative decision of the Board may file a motion for reconsideration within fifteen
7 (15) days from receipt of the decision, based on newly discovered evidence, errors of
8 law, or irregularities affecting substantial rights. Only one motion for reconsideration
9 shall be allowed. Decisions of the Board shall become final and executory after the
10 lapse of the reconsideration period. Decisions of the COMELEC involving election
11 offenses shall be appealable only as provided by existing laws.

12 **SEC. 57. Referral for Criminal Prosecution.** – Where the evidence obtained during
13 investigation indicates the commission of criminal acts, including but not limited to
14 falsification, corruption, money laundering, foreign interference, or election offenses
15 under the Omnibus Election Code, the COMELEC or the Board shall refer the matter
16 to the appropriate prosecutorial authority, including the Department of Justice, the
17 Office of the Ombudsman, or the Anti-Money Laundering Council for further action.
18 Provided, That referral shall not suspend or delay the imposition of administrative
19 sanctions under this Act.

20 The COMELEC or the Board may impose preventive measures during the pendency
21 of a case to preserve evidence or protect the integrity of the process, which may
22 include the temporary suspension of subsidies, freezing of party financial accounts,
23 temporary suspension of the authority of specific officers, issuance of compliance or
24 cease-and-desist orders, and placement of the party under enhanced supervision.
25 Provided, That such measures shall be reasonable, necessary, and issued only after
26 due notice and opportunity to comment.

27 **SEC. 58. Execution of Final Decisions.** – Final decisions imposing administrative
28 sanctions, including suspension or cancellation of accreditation, forfeiture of subsidies,
29 reimbursement or restitution, or disqualification from future participation, shall be
30 immediately executory unless restrained by a competent court. Administrative liability

1 imposed under this Section shall be without prejudice to the simultaneous or
2 subsequent filing of civil or criminal actions arising from the same act or omission.

3 **SEC. 59. Interagency Cooperation.** – The COMELEC and the Board may, in
4 furtherance of their enforcement mandate, enter into memoranda of agreement or
5 cooperation with other government agencies, including but not limited to the
6 Department of Justice, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Securities and Exchange
7 Commission, the Cooperative Development Authority, the Anti-Money Laundering
8 Council, the COA, the Philippine Statistics Authority, and relevant regulatory bodies
9 for purposes of information-sharing, investigation, audit, and prosecution.

10 **SEC. 60. Whistleblower Protection.** – Any person, whether a member, officer,
11 employee, volunteer, donor, or third party, who in good faith reports, discloses, or
12 provides information, documents, testimony, or evidence relating to violations of this
13 Act, including but not limited to fraudulent registration, falsification of party records,
14 coercion or manipulation of conventions, misuse or diversion of subsidies, acceptance
15 of illegal donations, obstruction of regulatory oversight, or any act constituting an
16 election offense, shall be considered a whistleblower for purposes of this Section.

17 Whistleblowers shall be entitled to full protection from retaliation, harassment,
18 intimidation, or discrimination by any political party, officer, member, or person acting
19 on their behalf.

20 The protections under this Section shall extend to whistleblower witnesses, persons
21 assisting the whistleblower, immediate family members, and persons whose safety or
22 rights are placed at risk due to the whistleblower's cooperation. Whistleblower
23 protections shall continue to apply even after resignation, termination, cessation of
24 party membership, or the conclusion of the proceedings in which the whistleblower
25 provided information.

26 **SEC. 61. Whistleblower Confidentiality.** – Whistleblowers may request that their
27 identity, personal information, affiliations, and other identifying details be kept strictly
28 confidential. The COMELEC and the National Political Party Development Board shall
29 adopt measures to preserve such anonymity, including the use of coded identifiers,
30 redaction of sensitive information, sealed records, and secure digital reporting

1 platforms. Provided, That disclosure of the whistleblower's identity shall be allowed
2 only upon the whistleblower's written consent or upon a court order issued for
3 compelling legal reasons, and only after notice to the whistleblower and an opportunity
4 to be heard.

5 Records, communication logs, digital reports, and testimonies involving
6 whistleblowers shall be maintained under strict confidentiality, accessible only to
7 authorized personnel. Unauthorized disclosure of whistleblower identities or
8 confidential information by any public officer or political party representative shall
9 constitute a punishable offense under this Act.

10 **SEC. 62. Whistleblower Immunity.** – Whistleblowers who provide substantial,
11 credible, and material information that leads to the initiation of administrative
12 proceedings, enforcement actions, subsidy forfeiture, criminal prosecution, or
13 conviction of responsible persons shall be entitled to immunity from administrative,
14 civil, or criminal liability arising from involvement in the reported violation, Provided,
15 That the whistleblower did not act as the principal offender or mastermind of the
16 unlawful act. In cases where the whistleblower participated in minor or accessory
17 roles, the Commission or the Board may grant full or partial immunity, or recommend
18 reduced penalties, taking into account the whistleblower's cooperation, good faith, and
19 the significance of the testimony provided.

20 Whistleblowers shall not incur civil, criminal, administrative, or electoral liability for
21 disclosures made in good faith, even if the reported act is eventually dismissed or
22 unproven, Provided, That the whistleblower did not knowingly provide false
23 information, fabricate evidence, or act with malicious or reckless disregard for the truth.
24 Any person who knowingly files a false or malicious complaint shall be subject to
25 appropriate penalties.

26 **SEC. 63. Prohibition Against Retaliation.** – No political party, officer, member,
27 agent, or affiliated person shall directly or indirectly commit any act of retaliation
28 against a whistleblower or any person believed to be communicating with regulatory
29 authorities regarding violations of this Act. Retaliation shall include, but shall not be
30 limited to: dismissal, suspension, demotion, reassignment, harassment, threats,
31 adverse changes in membership rights or privileges, expulsion, blacklisting, coercion,

1 economic punishment, or any action that disadvantages the whistleblower for having
2 reported wrongdoing. Provided, That any such retaliatory act shall constitute a
3 separate and independent offense punishable under this Act, without prejudice to
4 liability under the Revised Penal Code, the Whistleblower Protection Act (if applicable),
5 or other pertinent laws.

6 **SEC. 64. Protection Orders.** – Upon verified complaint or motu proprio determination
7 that a whistleblower faces threats, intimidation, or reprisals, the COMELEC or the
8 Board may issue a Protection Order directing any political party or individual to cease
9 and desist from acts of retaliation, harassment, or intimidation; mandating the
10 preservation of employment or membership status; authorizing temporary
11 reassignment or protective transfer; and ordering structural, administrative, or security
12 measures to ensure the safety of the whistleblower. Provided further, That COMELEC
13 may request assistance from the Philippine National Police, the National Bureau of
14 Investigation, or any law enforcement agency to provide security arrangements or
15 protective custody where necessary.

16 Failure by any political party or officer to comply with a Protection Order or to prevent
17 retaliation shall be a grave offense, punishable by suspension or cancellation of
18 accreditation, forfeiture of subsidies, fines, and criminal prosecution of responsible
19 officers.

20 21 TITLE VIII

22 FINAL PROVISIONS

23 **Section 65. Oversight Committee.** – There is hereby created a Congressional
24 Oversight Committee on Political Party Reform, hereinafter referred to as the
25 Oversight Committee, which shall exercise continuing oversight over the
26 implementation, enforcement, and administration of this Act.

27 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) Members from the Senate,
28 designated by the Senate President, and five (5) Members from the House of
29 Representatives, designated by the Speaker, with at least two (2) members from the
30 minority in each Chamber. The Members shall elect a Chairperson and Vice

1 Chairperson from among themselves, with leadership rotating between the Senate
2 and the House every two (2) years.

3 The Oversight Committee shall submit to Congress an Annual Oversight Report,
4 assessing the implementation of this Act, including compliance levels of political
5 parties, enforcement actions by the COMELEC and the Board, summary audit
6 findings, and recommendations for legislative or regulatory improvements. It shall
7 remain in existence for ten (10) years from the effectivity of this Act, unless otherwise
8 extended by law, after which oversight responsibilities shall revert to the appropriate
9 standing committees of both Houses of Congress.

10 **SEC. 66. Transitory Provisions.** – All existing political parties, whether nationally or
11 locally accredited at the time of effectivity of this Act, shall undergo a phased transition
12 to full compliance with the requirements, standards, and obligations herein prescribed.
13 This transition shall be carried out under the supervision of the COMELEC and the
14 National Political Party Development Board, which shall issue guidelines, timelines,
15 and compliance directives to ensure the orderly, uniform, and equitable
16 implementation of this Act.

17 Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, every political party shall:

18 (a) Revise or amend its constitution, by-laws, internal rules, and governance
19 instruments to conform to the standards of internal democracy, transparency, and
20 accountability mandated by this Act;

21 (b) Submit to COMELEC and the Board an updated and verified membership registry,
22 including the identities, demographic profiles, and chapter affiliations of all
23 members;

24 (c) File an organizational compliance report identifying its national officers, chapter
25 structures, and programmatic orientation; and

26 (d) Establish the required financial management systems, exclusive bank accounts,
27 and disclosure mechanisms consistent with the provisions of this Act. Provided,
28 That membership lists shall be subject to audit, verification, or spot checks by the
29 COMELEC or the Board.

1 Within four (4) years from the effectivity of this Act, every political party shall conduct
2 internal elections or leadership selection processes in accordance with its revised
3 constitution and by-laws, ensuring secret balloting, transparency, and participation of
4 duly registered members. Political parties must submit to the COMELEC and the
5 Board a certified record of such elections, including minutes, results, voter participation
6 rates, and the names of elected or appointed officers. Provided, That political parties
7 found to have manipulated, falsified, or improperly conducted internal elections shall
8 be subject to investigation and sanctions under this Act.

9 Within six (6) years from the effectivity of this Act, every political party shall comply
10 with the nomination quotas, inclusion standards, and candidate development
11 requirements mandated herein, including quotas for women, youth, and sectoral
12 representation; candidate training requirements; and the submission of a verified
13 platform or program of governance. Political parties shall likewise demonstrate
14 measurable progress in internal education, grassroots development, and the
15 strengthening of local chapters.

16 Any political party that fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any of the phased
17 obligations under this Section shall be subject to administrative sanctions, which may
18 include the suspension of accreditation, the withholding or forfeiture of subsidies from
19 the Political Party Development Fund, the disqualification from participation in
20 subsequent electoral cycles, or, in cases of persistent and willful non-compliance, the
21 cancellation of party accreditation. Provided, That cancellation shall be imposed only
22 after due notice, hearing, and a written finding of willful or gross failure to comply with
23 statutory obligations.

24 Elected officials, party officers, candidates, and individuals holding public office who,
25 prior to the effectivity of this Act, transferred, resigned from, or changed political party
26 affiliation shall not be penalized retroactively for such acts. Provided, That within sixty
27 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, all such officials and individuals must file with
28 COMELEC a written declaration of their current party affiliation or their decision to
29 remain independent. Failure to make such declaration within the prescribed period
30 shall be deemed an affirmation of independent status for purposes of this Act.

1 Independent candidates intending to receive party endorsement or enter a political
2 party during the transition period shall comply with the phased endorsement and
3 candidacy integration requirements, including the submission of background
4 documents, adherence to selection criteria, participation in party training or orientation
5 sessions, and compliance with party nomination procedures. Provided, That
6 independent candidates endorsed by political parties after the effectivity of this Act
7 shall be subject to the same eligibility, transparency, and ethical standards required of
8 party nominees under this Act.

9 Party officials who change party affiliation during the transition period shall be required
10 to comply with all membership obligations, disclosure requirements, and conflict-of-
11 interest declarations mandated under this Act. Provided, That no official shall use the
12 transitional period to evade sanctions for future violations relating to turncoatism,
13 prohibited donations, misuse of subsidies, or manipulation of internal party processes.

14 During the transition period, the COMELEC may issue clarificatory rules governing the
15 movement of officials between parties, the treatment of independent candidates
16 seeking integration into political parties, and the temporary recognition of transitional
17 affiliations. Upon full implementation of this Act, all party switches, resignations,
18 affiliations, and independent candidacies shall be governed exclusively by the
19 permanent rules provided herein.

20 **SEC. 67. Initial Appropriations and Organizational Set-up for the NPPDB.** – Upon
21 the effectivity of this Act, the amount necessary for the initial organization, staffing,
22 equipment, facilities, and administrative operations of the Board shall be charged
23 against the current appropriations of the COMELEC. The Commission shall allocate
24 such resources as may be necessary to enable the Board to convene, draft internal
25 rules, constitute technical units, and begin the discharge of its foundational functions.
26 Provided, That within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall
27 submit to the Department of Budget and Management a detailed organizational plan,
28 staffing complement, salary grade structure, administrative requirements, and
29 projected budget for inclusion in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

30 Beginning the fiscal year immediately following the effectivity of this Act, and every
31 year thereafter, there shall be appropriated in the annual General Appropriations Act

1 (GAA) such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the Board and the full
2 and effective enforcement of this Act. Provided further, That appropriations for the
3 Board shall be based on a multi-year expenditure program consistent with the strategic
4 regulatory framework envisioned under this Act.

5 **SEC. 68. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days after the
6 effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC, in coordination with all concerned agencies, shall
7 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

8 **SEC. 69. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid, or
9 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
10 remain valid and subsisting.

11 **SEC. 70. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, presidential decrees or issuances,
12 executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations
13 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified,
14 or amended accordingly.

15 **SEC. 71. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,