



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9906**



Introduced by Representatives Faustino 'Bojie' G. Dy III, Jose 'Bong' J. Teves Jr.,
Jude A. Acidre, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Terry L. Ridon, Brian Poe,
JC M. Abalos and Marcelino C. Libanan

AN ACT
REFORMING THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, STRENGTHENING THE
REPRESENTATION OF MARGINALIZED SECTORS, CIVIC ADVOCACY
ORGANIZATIONS, AND REGIONAL AND ETHNO-LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES IN
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PARTY-LIST SYSTEM
ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution introduced one of the most significant institutional innovations in the structure of Philippine democracy when it mandated the creation of the party-list system under Article VI, Section 5(2). The framers of the Constitution envisioned the party-list system as a mechanism that would open the doors of the House of Representatives to voices that historically had limited access to political power. It was meant to ensure that marginalized sectors, civic organizations, and emerging social movements would have a meaningful opportunity to participate in national legislation.

The constitutional design was clear. The party-list system was intended to broaden democratic participation, deepen pluralism in representation, and strengthen the responsiveness of the legislature to the varied realities of Philippine society. By allowing organized groups representing sectors, advocacies, and communities to compete for seats in the House of Representatives through proportional representation, the Constitution sought to ensure that governance would not be limited solely to those able to win territorial elections.

Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the "Party-List System Act," was enacted to implement this constitutional mandate. Over the past three decades, the party-list system has indeed opened new pathways for participation in the legislative process. Organizations representing workers, farmers, teachers, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and many other sectors have gained representation in Congress

and have contributed to the development of policies addressing social welfare, labor rights, education, environmental protection, and regional development.

However, experience has also revealed significant structural weaknesses in the current framework governing the party-list system. While the system has enabled broader participation, it has also faced persistent criticisms and challenges that have undermined public confidence in its integrity.

One of the most significant issues concerns the authenticity of representation. The constitutional intent of the party-list system was to empower groups that genuinely represent sectors, advocacies, or communities. Yet over time, the absence of clear statutory safeguards has allowed the emergence of organizations whose connection to the constituencies they claim to represent is unclear or tenuous. In some instances, party-list organizations have functioned primarily as electoral vehicles rather than as authentic representatives of sectors or communities.

Another major concern involves the timing and procedures for accreditation of party-list organizations. Under the existing framework, disputes over registration and accreditation often arise close to the election period. This has resulted in uncertainty for voters and participating organizations alike, while also contributing to litigation and administrative disputes that strain the electoral process.

Equally important is the question of internal democratic governance within party-list organizations. Because party-list organizations play a direct role in selecting nominees who may serve in Congress, it is essential that these organizations themselves operate according to democratic principles. The absence of clear statutory requirements on internal party democracy has allowed certain organizations to operate with minimal accountability to their members.

The party-list system has also been criticized for being vulnerable to capture by traditional political interests. In some cases, individuals associated with established political dynasties or those who have recently participated in traditional electoral contests have entered the party-list system as an alternative pathway to legislative office. Similarly, concerns have been raised about individuals with direct financial interests in government contracts serving as party-list nominees. These developments risk undermining the original purpose of the system as a platform for genuine sectoral and civic representation. In addition, the issue of financial transparency among party-list organizations has become increasingly important. As organizations participating in the electoral process and representing public constituencies, party-list groups must operate with transparency regarding their sources of funding and expenditures. The absence of comprehensive financial disclosure mechanisms has created concerns about accountability and public trust.

Another structural concern relates to the allocation of party-list seats. The mathematical formula governing seat allocation has been the subject of repeated controversies and litigation. Various interpretations have emerged over time, leading to uncertainty regarding the proper application of the proportional representation system mandated by the Constitution. These disputes have highlighted the need for a

clear, mechanical, and self-executing statutory formula that removes ambiguity and ensures that the constitutional allocation of party-list seats is fully implemented.

Finally, there remains the broader challenge of ensuring that party-list organizations continue to maintain active engagement with the constituencies they claim to represent. The party-list system was designed to strengthen participatory democracy by linking organized communities to legislative representation. However, without mechanisms requiring continuing public service, advocacy work, and constituency engagement, there is a risk that some organizations may appear primarily during elections without sustained involvement in community development or policy advocacy.

This proposed measure seeks to address these structural challenges while preserving the fundamental constitutional purpose of the party-list system.

First, the bill clarifies the categories of representation within the party-list system by recognizing three principal forms of representation: sectoral representation, advocacy representation, and regional representation, including representation of ethno-linguistic communities. This approach reflects the evolving character of democratic participation in Philippine society while ensuring that organizations participating in the system are rooted in identifiable constituencies.

Second, the measure establishes a continuing accreditation system for party-list organizations that operates outside the election period. By requiring that petitions for registration and accreditation be resolved not later than one year before the start of the election period, the bill ensures that the list of eligible organizations is settled well in advance of elections. This reform promotes stability, reduces litigation, and provides clarity for voters.

Third, the bill introduces a Genuine Representation Requirement and Verification Process. Party-list organizations must demonstrate that they genuinely represent the sector, advocacy group, or regional community they claim to represent. The Commission on Elections is empowered to verify such claims through evaluation of membership bases, leadership composition, records of advocacy, and organizational presence within the constituency represented.

Fourth, the measure promotes internal democracy and transparent nomination procedures within party-list organizations. Nominees must be selected through democratic internal processes defined in the organization's constitution and by-laws, ensuring that candidates for legislative office emerge through participatory mechanisms rather than unilateral appointments.

Fifth, the bill requires party-list organizations to establish Leadership Development and Candidate Preparation Programs. These programs aim to cultivate competent and ethical leaders capable of contributing effectively to legislative work. By encouraging policy education, governance training, and leadership development, the bill strengthens the capacity of party-list representatives to fulfill their responsibilities in Congress.

Sixth, the measure establishes safeguards against conflicts of interest and undue political influence by prohibiting certain individuals from being nominated as party-list representatives. These include individuals belonging to political dynasties within the prohibited degree, incumbent elective officials, recent candidates for elective office, and persons with direct financial interests in government contracts.

Seventh, the bill introduces financial transparency and accountability requirements for party-list organizations. Accredited organizations must maintain financial records, submit annual financial reports, and disclose significant contributions. The Commission on Elections is authorized to conduct audits and enforce compliance, thereby strengthening public confidence in the integrity of participating organizations.

Eighth, the measure promotes internal party democracy and governance standards, ensuring that members of party-list organizations have meaningful opportunities to participate in leadership selection and decision-making processes.

Ninth, the bill requires party-list organizations to maintain continuing public service, advocacy, and constituency engagement consistent with the interests of the communities they represent. Organizations must submit biennial reports documenting their activities, ensuring that representation remains grounded in active engagement rather than merely electoral participation.

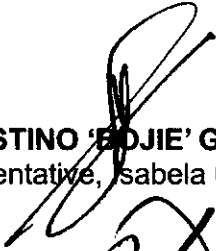
Tenth, the measure provides a clear and self-executing formula for the allocation of party-list seats. By specifying the mathematical procedures for determining the number of seats available, the seat value, and the distribution of seats among qualified organizations, the bill removes ambiguity and ensures that the constitutional allocation of party-list representation is fully implemented.

Finally, the bill provides for a ten-year comprehensive review of the party-list system to evaluate its effectiveness in achieving its constitutional objectives. This periodic review will enable Congress to assess whether the system continues to serve its intended purpose and to introduce further reforms if necessary.

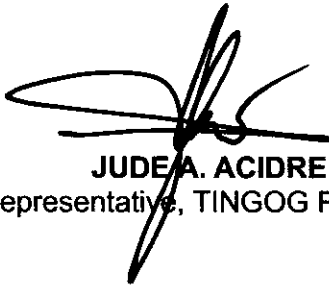
In sum, this proposed legislation does not abandon the constitutional vision of the party-list system. Rather, it seeks to restore and strengthen that vision by introducing reforms that promote genuine representation, transparency, accountability, and democratic participation.

By clarifying the rules governing participation in the party-list system and strengthening its institutional foundations, this measure seeks to ensure that the House of Representatives continues to reflect the diverse voices, aspirations, and experiences of the Filipino people.

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



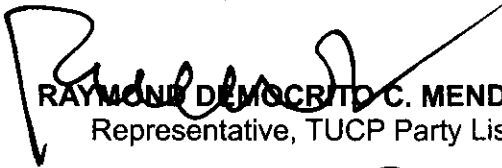
FAUSTINO 'EDJIE' G. DY III
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Representative, TGP Party List



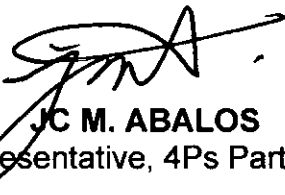
RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
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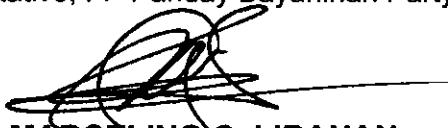
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9906

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AN ACT

**REFORMING THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, STRENGTHENING THE
REPRESENTATION OF MARGINALIZED SECTORS, CIVIC ADVOCACY
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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PARTY-LIST SYSTEM
ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known and cited as the "New Party-List
System Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall promote proportional representation
in the House of Representatives through a party-list system that broadens democratic
participation and ensures that citizens and communities who may not possess the
traditional resources required to compete in territorial elections are able to participate
meaningfully in national legislation.

Consistent with Article VI, Section 5(2) of the Constitution, the party-list system
shall serve as a mechanism through which Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized
sectors, civic advocacy movements, and regional communities may participate in
legislative governance and contribute to the formulation of national policy.

1 The State recognizes that democracy flourishes when institutions of
2 governance are able to reflect the diversity of the people they serve. The party-list
3 system therefore remains an important constitutional innovation intended to deepen
4 representative democracy by creating additional pathways for participation in the
5 legislative process.

6 Over time, however, the experience of implementing the party-list system has
7 revealed structural and institutional weaknesses that require reform. These include
8 uncertainty in the accreditation of party-list organizations, questions regarding the
9 authenticity of representation, lack of internal democratic procedures within certain
10 organizations, and disputes over the allocation of seats.

11 It is therefore the policy of the State to strengthen the institutional framework of
12 the party-list system in order to ensure that it remains faithful to its constitutional
13 purpose of expanding representation while safeguarding the integrity of democratic
14 institutions.

15 Towards these ends, the State shall pursue the following objectives:

- 16 (a) strengthen inclusive representation in the House of Representatives;
- 17 (b) encourage participation of credible sectoral, advocacy, and regional
18 organizations capable of contributing to national policymaking;
- 19 (c) ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability in the registration and
20 participation of party-list organizations;
- 21 (d) prevent the misuse or capture of the party-list system by interests that do
22 not genuinely represent sectors, advocacy movements, or regional
23 communities;
- 24 (e) promote responsible leadership development and political education within
25 party-list organizations;
- 26 (f) encourage democratic participation and meaningful consultation with
27 communities represented by party-list organizations;

1 (g) guarantee transparency and predictability in the allocation of party-list
2 seats;

3 (h) strengthen public confidence in the party-list system as a legitimate
4 mechanism of democratic representation.

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

7 (a) Party-List System refers to a mechanism of proportional representation in
8 the election of representatives to the House of Representatives from
9 registered party-list organizations accredited by the Commission on
10 Elections.

11 (b) Party-List Organization refers to an organized association of citizens
12 accredited by the Commission on Elections to participate in the party-list
13 system and to represent a defined sector, advocacy, or regional
14 constituency.

15 (c) Sectoral Party-List Organization refers to an organization representing
16 marginalized and underrepresented sectors of society whose welfare,
17 rights, or development interests require legislative representation.

18 (d) Advocacy Party-List Organization refers to an organization representing
19 civic, social, environmental, or public policy advocacies organized around
20 defined public interest objectives.

21 (e) Regional Party-List Organization refers to an organization representing the
22 interests, development priorities, or cultural identity of a geographic region
23 or a distinct ethno-linguistic community within the Philippines.

24 (f) Nominee refers to a person included in the list submitted by a party-list
25 organization from whom representatives shall be chosen should the
26 organization obtain sufficient votes to qualify for representation in the House
27 of Representatives.

1 (g) Seat Value refers to the number of votes corresponding to one party-list seat
2 as determined under the allocation formula provided in this Act.

3 (h) Total Valid Party-List Votes refers to the aggregate number of votes cast for
4 all accredited party-list organizations participating in an election under the
5 party-list system.

6 **SEC. 4. Categories of Representation in the Party-List System.** – The party-list
7 system established under this Act shall allow the participation of organizations
8 representing marginalized sectors, civic or public policy advocacies, and regional or
9 ethno-linguistic communities, in order to broaden democratic participation and ensure
10 that diverse social interests are represented in the House of Representatives.

11 For purposes of this Act, party-list organizations may participate under the following
12 categories:

13 (a) Sectoral Representation, referring to organizations representing marginalized
14 and underrepresented sectors of society;

15 A marginalized and underrepresented sector refers to a group of Filipino
16 citizens who, by reason of economic disadvantage, social condition, geographic
17 location, cultural identity, occupation, disability, or other similar circumstances,
18 have generally faced barriers to meaningful participation in political, social and
19 economic life.

20
21 This may include sectors whose members have had limited access to public
22 resources, representation in government, opportunities for leadership and
23 participation in decision making process.

24
25 For purposes of this act, marginalization shall be understood in relation to the
26 actual condition and lived experience of the sector concerned and not solely on
27 the basis of electoral performance, political affiliation, numerical size or
28 ideological advocacy.

(b) Advocacy Representation, referring to organizations representing civic, public policy, or social reform advocacies organized around specific issues affecting the common good; and

(c) Regional Representation, referring to organizations representing the interests and development priorities of a geographic region or a distinct ethno-linguistic community within the Philippines.

A party-list organization shall register and participate under only one (1) category of representation, as declared in its petition for registration with the Commission on Elections.

Provided, That organizations claiming sectoral representation shall demonstrate genuine affiliation with the sector represented;

Provided further, That advocacy organizations shall demonstrate a verifiable record of civic or policy advocacy through programs, campaigns, research, or other activities addressing matters of public interest;

Provided, finally, That organizations claiming regional representation shall demonstrate sustained organizational presence within the region or ethno-linguistic community they seek to represent.

The Commission on Elections shall promulgate rules and guidelines to determine the appropriate classification of party-list organizations under this section.

SEC. 5. Registration and Accreditation of Party-List Organizations. – Any organized group of citizens may register as a party-list organization by filing a verified petition with the Commission on Elections.

The petition shall contain the following information and supporting documents:

(a) Organizational Information

1. The name and acronym of the party-list organization, with the acronym not exceeding twenty (20) characters;
2. The principal address of the petitioner;
3. The names, positions, and addresses of its elected officers;

4. The name and address of the president, chairperson, or secretary-general who shall represent the party-list organization in the petition;
5. The names and addresses of its chapter offices, if any.

(b) Organizational Documents

1. The organization's constitution and by-laws;
2. Its platform or program of government;
3. Documentary proof of membership and organizational activities;
4. A list of officers and organizational leadership.

(c) Declarations and Certifications

The verified petition shall contain sworn declarations stating that the organization:

1. Intends to participate in the party-list elections;
2. Has informed all its officers and members of the filing of the petition and obtained their consent;
3. Is not a religious sect or denomination, organization, or association organized for religious purposes;
4. Does not advocate violence or unlawful means to achieve its goals;
5. Is not an adjunct of, or a project organized or funded by, the government;
6. Is not directly or indirectly established by a political dynasty;
7. Is not directly or indirectly related to any person who has a beneficial interest in, or holds contracts or subcontracts with, the government or any of its agencies or instrumentalities for the supply of goods, services, or the performance of construction or other works;
8. Is not a foreign party or organization;
9. Does not receive support for partisan political purposes from any foreign government, foreign political party, foundation, or organization, whether directly or indirectly;
10. Has been in existence for at least one (1) year at the time the petition is filed;
11. Commits to comply with the laws, rules, and regulations relating to elections.

1 (d) Attachments. The petition shall include a list of documents attached to the
2 petition together with all supporting documentary evidence required under this
3 section.

4 Provided, That registration and accreditation shall be conducted outside
5 the election period under a continuing accreditation system established by the
6 Commission on Elections;

7
8 Provided further, That all petitions for registration or accreditation shall
9 be resolved not later than one (1) year before the start of the election period for
10 the next regular election;

11
12 Provided further, That no petition for registration shall be accepted within
13 the one-year period preceding the start of the election period, except for
14 petitions seeking cancellation of registration;

15
16 Provided further, That any party-list organization already registered with
17 the Commission on Elections shall not be required to register anew, unless its
18 registration has been cancelled or withdrawn;

19
20 Provided, finally, That the Commission on Elections shall maintain and
21 publish an official registry of accredited party-list organizations eligible to
22 participate in elections.

23
24 The Commission on Elections may establish verification procedures,
25 hearings, and documentary requirements to determine compliance with the
26 provisions of this section and to ensure that party-list organizations meet the
27 qualifications prescribed under this Act.

28
29 **SEC. 6. Genuine Representation Requirement and Verification Process.** – All
30 party-list organizations shall demonstrate that they genuinely represent the sector,
31 advocacy, or regional or ethno-linguistic constituency they claim to represent.

32 For purposes of determining compliance, the Commission on Elections shall
33 evaluate:

- (a) membership base;
- (b) organizational leadership participation;
- (c) record of advocacy or sectoral engagement;
- (d) organizational presence in the communities represented.

Provided, That the Commission may require submission of membership records, organizational reports, advocacy documentation, or other evidence necessary to verify representation;

Provided further, That the Commission may conduct public hearings or verification proceedings;

Provided, finally, That material misrepresentation shall constitute grounds for denial or cancellation of registration.

SEC. 7. Refusal and/or Cancellation of Registration. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall deny the registration of, or cancel the registration previously granted to, any party-list organization on any of the following grounds:

- (a) Prohibited Names, Acronyms, or Emblems. The COMELEC shall deny or cancel the registration of any party-list organization whose name, acronym, or emblem:
 - 1. Is patterned after, derived from, or confusingly similar to the titles of television or radio programs, whether existing or defunct at the time of registration;
 - 2. Is identical or confusingly similar to the names of existing or defunct government assistance, subsidy, welfare, development, or other programs, projects, or activities;
 - 3. Uses, refers to, or is confusingly similar to the names, stage names, initials, images, likeness, or well-known monikers of living or deceased public officials, politicians, celebrities, athletes, or other public figures;
 - 4. Otherwise creates a false impression of endorsement, affiliation, or connection with any government program, public official, public figure, or government initiative.

Provided, that the prohibitions under this subsection shall apply prospectively only to applications for registration or accreditation filed after the effectivity of this

1 Act, and to registered party-list organizations not currently represented in the
2 House of Representatives at the time of the effectivity of this Act.

3
4 (b) Dissolution or Non-Existence. Registration shall likewise be cancelled if the
5 party-list organization:

- 6 1. Has been dissolved, absorbed, merged with another organization, or has
7 otherwise ceased to exist as a juridical entity; or
8 2. Has lost the legal or organizational capacity to operate as a party-list
9 organization.

10
11 (c) Failure to Participate or Maintain Electoral Support. The COMELEC may cancel
12 the registration of a party-list organization that:

- 13 1. Fails to participate in the last two (2) preceding party-list elections; or
14 2. Fails to obtain at least the minimum winning percentage threshold required
15 under this Act in the two (2) preceding elections.

16
17 (d) Due Process Requirement. No registration shall be denied or cancelled under
18 this section without due notice and hearing.

19
20 The Commission on Elections shall ensure that the party-list organization
21 concerned is afforded a reasonable opportunity to present evidence, respond to
22 allegations, and defend its registration before any final decision is rendered.

23
24 Any decision denying or cancelling registration shall be in writing and shall state
25 clearly the factual and legal bases for such action.

26 **SEC. 8. Nomination and Selection of Party-List Representatives.** – Each party-list
27 organization shall submit to the Commission on Elections a list of not less than ten
28 (10) nominees.

29 The selection of nominees shall be conducted through democratic internal
30 procedures.

1 Provided, That the list shall be approved by the highest policy-making body of
2 the Organization;

3 Provided, further, That the nominees of a sectoral party or organization must
4 belong to the sector which they seek to represent.

5 Provided further, That each nominee shall signify acceptance of the nomination
6 in writing;

7 Provided further, That no person shall be nominated in more than one party-list
8 organization;

9 Provided, finally, That the party-list organization shall submit certification of
10 compliance with its internal nomination procedures.

11 The order of nominees in the submitted list shall determine the order in which
12 nominees assume office.

13 **SEC. 9. Leadership Development and Candidate Preparation Program.** – All
14 party-list organizations shall establish and maintain a Leadership Development and
15 Candidate Preparation Program designed to prepare potential nominees for legislative
16 responsibilities and for meaningful participation in public governance.

17 The purpose of this program is to ensure that individuals who may eventually
18 serve as nominees and representatives possess the knowledge, competence, and
19 ethical grounding necessary to discharge the duties of legislative office. The program
20 shall seek to cultivate leadership that is rooted in public service, democratic values,
21 and accountability to the constituencies represented by the party-list organization.

22 The program shall include training and capacity-building activities in the following
23 areas:

- 24 a. Legislative Processes and Parliamentary Procedure, including the structure,
25 functions, and powers of Congress, the stages of the legislative process, and
26 the responsibilities of legislators in crafting, deliberating, and approving
27 legislation;

- 1 b. Public Policy Development, including policy analysis, legislative drafting,
2 research methods, policy evaluation, and evidence-based decision-making;
- 3 c. Ethical Leadership and Public Accountability, including principles of integrity,
4 transparency, avoidance of conflicts of interest, and adherence to standards of
5 public service;
- 6 d. Democratic Governance and Constitutional Principles, including the role of
7 representative institutions, separation of powers, and citizen participation in
8 governance;
- 9 e. Community Engagement and Representation, including mechanisms for
10 consultation, dialogue, and collaboration with the sector, advocacy group, or
11 regional community represented by the organization.

12 Provided, That party-list organizations shall endeavor to ensure that individuals
13 participating in the Leadership Development and Candidate Preparation Program are
14 drawn primarily from the constituency represented by the organization;

15 Provided further, That party-list organizations may collaborate with universities,
16 research institutions, leadership development institutes, or civil society organizations
17 in designing and implementing training programs;

18 Provided further, That the Commission on Elections may develop standards or
19 guidelines for accrediting leadership development programs conducted under this
20 section;

21 Provided, finally, That nominees submitted by a party-list organization shall certify
22 that they have undergone preparation or training consistent with the Leadership
23 Development and Candidate Preparation Program established by the organization.

24 Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the autonomy of party-list
25 organizations in designing their leadership development initiatives, provided that such
26 initiatives remain consistent with the principles of democratic governance and
27 responsible public leadership embodied in this Act.

1 **SEC. 10. Prohibited Nominees and Disqualifications.** – To preserve the integrity of
2 the party-list system as a mechanism for genuine sectoral, advocacy, and regional
3 representation, the following persons shall be disqualified from being nominated or
4 serving as party-list representatives:

- 5 a. Any person who is related by affinity or consanguinity, within the second (2nd)
6 degree to any person simultaneously holding office as a member of the Senate
7 or the House of Representatives;
- 8 b. Any person who is an incumbent elective official at the national, provincial, city,
9 or municipal level at the time of nomination;
- 10 c. Any person who has been awarded, directly or indirectly, any government
11 contract, concession, franchise, or public-private partnership agreement with
12 any national government agency, government-owned or controlled corporation,
13 or local government unit within five (5) years preceding the election;
- 14 d. Any person who serves as a director, officer, or controlling shareholder of a
15 corporation that has been awarded government contracts within the same
16 period.

17 Provided, That a person who has previously served as an elective official or
18 candidate for elective office may be nominated as a party-list representative only after
19 the lapse of one (1) full election cycle following the election in which such person
20 served or ran as a candidate;

21 Provided further, That nominees shall submit to the Commission on Elections a
22 sworn declaration certifying compliance with the requirements of this section;

23 Provided, finally, That any material misrepresentation in such declaration shall
24 constitute grounds for disqualification, cancellation of nomination, or removal from
25 office in accordance with law.

26 **SEC. 11. Financial Transparency and Accountability.** – All party-list organizations
27 accredited under this Act shall maintain transparent financial records and disclosure

1 mechanisms in order to ensure accountability to their members, supporters, and the
2 general public.

3 Financial transparency is essential to maintaining public confidence in
4 democratic institutions. Party-list organizations, as participants in the electoral process
5 and as representatives of public constituencies, must operate with a high degree of
6 financial integrity and openness.

7 Every party-list organization shall therefore:

- 8 a. maintain complete and accurate records of sources of funds, donations, grants,
9 and expenditures;
- 10 b. submit to the Commission on Elections an annual financial report detailing all
11 income, contributions, grants, and expenditures;
- 12 c. disclose financial contributions received from individuals, corporations, or
13 organizations exceeding thresholds determined by the Commission on
14 Elections;
- 15 d. maintain internal financial control mechanisms consistent with principles of
16 transparency and accountability.

17 Provided, That the Commission on Elections shall make such financial reports
18 available for public inspection;

19 Provided further, That failure to comply with financial disclosure requirements shall
20 constitute grounds for administrative sanctions, suspension, or cancellation of
21 registration;

22 Provided, finally, That the Commission on Elections may conduct random financial
23 audits of party-list organizations.

24 **SEC. 12. Internal Party Democracy and Governance Standards.** – Party-list
25 organizations accredited under this Act shall adopt democratic internal governance
26 structures that promote meaningful participation of their members in organizational
27 decision-making processes.

1 The strength and credibility of the party-list system depend not only on the
2 authenticity of representation but also on the internal democratic practices of
3 participating organizations.

4 For this purpose, party-list organizations shall ensure:

5 (a) regular meetings of governing bodies and mechanisms for member
6 participation in major organizational decisions;

7 (b) transparent procedures for the selection of officers and nominees;

8 (c) mechanisms for consultation with members or constituency groups
9 represented by the organization;

10 (d) internal dispute resolution procedures for addressing conflicts within the
11 organization.

12 Provided, That the constitution and by-laws of every party-list organization shall
13 clearly define the rights and responsibilities of members;

14 Provided further, That party-list organizations shall submit certification of
15 compliance with internal democracy standards;

16 Provided, finally, That persistent violation of internal democracy requirements
17 may constitute grounds for administrative sanctions or cancellation of accreditation.

18 **SEC. 13. Public Service, Advocacy, and Constituency Engagement**
19 **Requirement.** – Party-list organizations accredited under this Act shall maintain a
20 continuing record of public service, advocacy, and constituency engagement
21 consistent with the sector, advocacy, or regional or ethno-linguistic community they
22 claim to represent.

23 Such activities may include policy advocacy, community outreach,
24 consultations, research initiatives, and collaborative programs benefiting the
25 represented constituency.

26 Provided, That elected party-list organizations shall establish accessible
27 mechanisms for constituency engagement;

1 Provided further, That organizations shall submit biennial Public Service and
2 Advocacy Reports;

3 Provided, finally, That failure to demonstrate continuing engagement may result
4 in administrative sanctions.

5 **SEC. 14. Manner of Voting.** – Every voter shall be entitled to two (2) votes: one vote
6 for the district representative and one vote for the party-list organization.

7 This system ensures that voters may simultaneously choose territorial
8 representatives and support organizations representing sectoral, advocacy, or
9 regional interests.

10 **SEC. 15. Number of Party-List Representatives.** – Party-list representatives shall
11 constitute twenty percent (20%) of the total membership of the House of
12 Representatives.

13 This constitutional allocation ensures that the party-list system remains an
14 integral component of the legislative structure and continues to provide additional
15 pathways for representation.

16 **SEC. 16. Allocation of Party-List Seats.** – Party-list seats shall be allocated strictly
17 in accordance with the formula and procedures provided in this section. The allocation
18 mechanism established under this Act shall be uniform, mechanical, objective, and
19 non-discretionary, and shall be implemented by the Commission on Elections strictly
20 in accordance with the mathematical procedures prescribed herein.

21 The Commission on Elections shall have no authority to modify, reinterpret, or
22 substitute any component of the allocation formula established under this Act.

23 The allocation of seats shall be governed by the following rules:

24 **(a) General Rule.** – Party-list seats shall be allocated using a uniform,
25 mechanical, and non-discretionary formula, strictly in accordance with this Act
26 and Article VI, Section 5 (2) of the Constitution, which mandates the party-list
27 system as a mechanism of proportional representation in the House of
28 Representatives.

1 The allocation formula established under this section shall be applied uniformly
2 to all qualified party-list organizations participating in the election, and the Commission
3 on Elections shall perform the computations strictly in accordance with the procedures
4 provided herein.

5 Provided, That the Commission shall publish the complete computation used in
6 determining the allocation of seats;

7 Provided further, That such computation shall be based exclusively on the
8 official canvass of valid party-list votes nationwide;

9 Provided, finally, That no administrative interpretation, rule, or regulation shall
10 alter the mathematical formula prescribed under this Act.

11 **(b) Threshold Guarantee.** – Party-list organizations obtaining at least two percent
12 (2%) of the total valid party-list votes cast nationwide shall be guaranteed one
13 (1) seat in the House of Representatives.

14 The purpose of the threshold guarantee is to ensure that party-list organizations
15 demonstrating a minimum level of national electoral support are assured
16 representation in the House of Representatives.

17 For purposes of determining compliance with the threshold requirement:

18 1. The Commission on Elections shall compute the total number of valid party-
19 list votes cast nationwide.

20 2. Two percent (2%) of such total shall be computed to determine the minimum
21 vote threshold required for the guarantee of one seat.

22 3. Any party-list organization whose total votes meet or exceed this threshold
23 shall automatically be allocated one (1) guaranteed seat, subject to the
24 limitations provided in this Act.

25 Provided, That the guaranteed seat allocated under this subsection shall be counted
26 as part of the total number of seats to which the party-list organization may be entitled
27 under the proportional allocation formula;

1 Provided further, That the threshold guarantee shall not prevent a party-list
2 organization from obtaining additional seats under the computation provided in
3 subsection (c), subject to the seat limitation established in this Act.

4 (c) Computation of Additional Seats. – Additional seats shall be allocated in order
5 to ensure proportional representation consistent with the number of votes
6 received by each party-list organization.

7 The computation of additional seats shall proceed according to the following
8 steps:

9 (1) Determination of Total Party-List Seats. – The Commission on Elections
10 shall first determine the total number of party-list seats available in the House of
11 Representatives.

12 This shall be computed by determining twenty percent (20%) of the total
13 membership of the House of Representatives, including both district representatives
14 and party-list representatives.

15 Provided, That if the computation results in a fractional number, the total
16 number of party-list seats shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number in order
17 to ensure the full implementation of the constitutional allocation.

18 (2) Determination of the Seat Value. – The Commission on Elections shall
19 determine the number of votes corresponding to one (1) seat, hereinafter referred to
20 as the Seat Value, by dividing the total valid party-list votes cast nationwide by the
21 total number of available party-list seats.

22 The formula shall be as follows:

23
$$\text{Seat Value} = \text{Total Valid Party-List Votes} \div \text{Total Party-List Seats}$$

24 The Seat Value shall represent the number of votes required to obtain one
25 party-list seat under proportional allocation.

26 Provided, the Seat Value shall be computed only once for each election and
27 shall be uniformly applied to all participating party-list organizations.

1 (3) Determination of Seat Entitlement. – The Commission on Elections shall determine
2 the total number of seats to which each party-list organization is entitled by dividing
3 the total number of votes obtained by the organization by the Seat Value.

4 Seat Entitlement = Votes Obtained ÷ Seat Value

5 Only the whole number portion of the quotient shall initially be counted for
6 purposes of seat allocation.

7 Provided, That the guaranteed seat obtained under subsection (b) shall be
8 included in the total seat entitlement determined under this subsection;

9 Provided further, That fractional remainders shall be considered in determining
10 the distribution of remaining seats under subsection (e).

11 **(d) Seat Limitation.** – In no case shall any party-list organization be entitled to
12 more than three (3) seats, regardless of the number of votes obtained.

13 Provided, That if the computation under subsection (c) results in a seat
14 entitlement exceeding three (3) seats, the excess seats shall not be allocated to the
15 organization;

16 Provided further, That such excess seats shall instead be returned to the pool
17 of remaining seats for redistribution under subsection (e).

18 **(e) Filling of Remaining Seats.** – After the allocation of guaranteed seats under
19 subsection (b) and the computation of additional seats under subsection (c),
20 the Commission on Elections shall determine whether any unfilled party-list
21 seats remain.

22 If the total number of seats allocated is less than the total number of party-list
23 seats available, the remaining seats shall be distributed to party-list organizations in
24 descending order of votes obtained, regardless of whether such organizations have
25 met the two percent (2%) threshold.

26 The distribution shall proceed sequentially until all available party-list seats
27 have been filled.

1 Provided, That organizations already receiving the maximum of three (3) seats
2 shall not be eligible to receive additional seats under this subsection;

3 Provided further, That the ranking of organizations for purposes of distributing
4 remaining seats shall be determined solely by the number of votes obtained in the
5 election.

6 **(f) Mandatory Full Allocation.** – All party-list seats corresponding to the
7 constitutional allocation shall be fully filled.

8 Under no circumstance shall the Commission on Elections declare any party-
9 list seat vacant or unallocated.

10 Provided, That the Commission shall complete the allocation of seats using the
11 procedures established in this section immediately upon the completion of the national
12 canvass of party-list votes;

13 Provided further, That the full computation of the allocation of seats shall be
14 published together with the official results of the election.

15 **SEC. 17. Transparency in Seat Allocation.** – For purposes of transparency and
16 public accountability, the Commission on Elections shall publish the complete
17 computation used in allocating party-list seats, including:

18 (a) the total number of valid party-list votes cast nationwide;

19 (b) the total number of party-list seats available;

20 (c) the computed Seat Value;

21 (d) the total votes obtained by each party-list organization;

22 (e) the computation of seat entitlement for each organization; and

23 (f) the final distribution of party-list seats.

24 Provided, That such publication shall be made publicly available not later than five
25 (5) days after completion of the national canvass of votes.

1 **SEC. 18. Vacancy.** – Vacancies shall be filled by the next nominee in the list submitted
2 by the party-list organization.

3 **SEC. 19. Term of Office.** – Party-list representatives shall be elected for a term of
4 three (3) years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the
5 thirtieth (30th) day of June next following their election.

6 No person shall serve as a member of the House of Representatives for more than
7 three (3) consecutive terms. For purposes of this limitation, any prior service as a
8 member of the House of Representatives, whether as a district or party-list
9 representative, shall be counted.

10 Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as
11 an interruption in the continuity of his or her service for the full term for which the
12 member was elected

13 **SEC 20. Term-sharing of Nominees** – Filling of vacancy as a result of term sharing
14 agreement among nominees of winning party-list groups/ organizations shall not be
15 allowed.

16 **SEC. 21. Ten-Year Review of the Party-List System.** – There shall be conducted a
17 comprehensive review of the party-list system every ten (10) years to determine
18 whether it continues to fulfill its constitutional purpose of broadening representation in
19 the House of Representatives.

20 The review shall evaluate the effectiveness, integrity, and inclusiveness of the
21 system and may recommend further legislative reforms.

22 **SEC. 22. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Commission on Elections
23 shall promulgate rules to implement this Act.

24 **SEC. 23. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be
25 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

26 **SEC. 24. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the “Party-
27 List System Act,” is hereby repealed in its entirety. All laws, decrees, executive orders,

1 rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
2 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

3 **SEC. 25. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
4 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid.

5 **SEC. 26. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in
6 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

7 Approved,