Broadening the Scope of the Proportional System of Representation

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1. In a paper written by our colleague last March 23, 2016, Prof. Roland G. Simbulan said that we can challenge the oligarchic politics in the Philippines by "broadening the participation of the marginalized sectors and progressive organizations and civic groups in the political process".

2. We believe that this can be done by fine tuning our present party list system and broadening its scope as we chartered the course for federalism in the Philippines.

3. Another colleague, Prof. Temario Rivera said that "the most effective institutional change that can weaken the traditional control of electoral contests by powerful families is the introduction of a genuine proportional representation (PR) system of electing our public officials at all levels of government".

4. However, our present party list system is far being a desirable institution that can challenge the oligarchs since it is relegated only to 20% of the total number of legislators in the House of Representatives and our present law (R.A. 7941) puts a limit to the number of seats that an accredited party list organization can win.

5. Thus with a maximum of three seats that a party can win in the Party List system, the progressive sector in our society is handicapped in launching a formidable challenge against the oligarchs.

6. In his SONA speech last Monday, President Rodrigo R. Duterte reiterated his plan for a federal system and a parliament form of government for our country.

7. It is in this context that we propose a full PR voting method in determining the composition of the parliament.

8. Under the federal system it is imperative that each of the State or Region shall be adequately and proportionally represented in the parliament.

9. Also the provinces, independent component cities and the highly urbanized cities, which we consider as the basic political units of a State or Region shall be adequately and proportionally represented in the parliament.

10. We believe that proportional representation can be determined by the number of registered voters and by the number of voters who actually voted in the parliamentary election in each State or Region and in each basic political unit.

11. Hence, the Parliamentary seats shall be contested and allocated in two different levels of parliamentary districts:

    a. If the parliament is unicameral, then the two parliamentary districts are the national district and the basic unit districts.
    b. If the parliament is bicameral, then
        i. for the Upper House (UH), the two districts are the National Parliamentary District and the State or Regional Parliamentary Districts, and
        ii. for the Lower House (LH), the two districts are the National Parliamentary District and the Basic Unit Parliamentary Districts.

12. The Overseas Filipinos shall be considered to be in one region which is divided into 4 basic units:
    a. Asia
    b. Europe
    c. North and Latin Americas
    d. Africa and Middle East

13. There shall be two autonomous Regions or States in Muslim Mindanao. These are the ARMM Mainland Provinces and the ARMM Island Provinces. We assume that Cotabato City is a basic unit of ARMM Mainland Provinces.

14. The National Capital Region (NCR) shall be considered as a Federal Administrative Region. Its basic units are the highly urbanized cities in Metro Manila and the town of Pateros.

15. In a bicameral parliament, the number of UH seats for each State or Regional Parliamentary District shall be determined by the number of registered voters in the State or Region and the number of registered voters required for each UH seat.

    a. The number of registered voters is divided by the number of registered voters for each UH seat.

    b. The result of the division is rounded off.

    c. This rounded off number shall be divided into two parts.

        i. One part, which is the ceiling when the rounded off number is divided by 2, is the allocated number for the said State or Regional Parliamentary District.

        ii. The other part, which is the floor when the rounded off number is divided by 2, is allocated to the National Parliamentary District for the UH seats.

16. In a bicameral parliament, the number of LH seats allocated to a basic unit parliament district shall be determined by the number of registered voters in the basic unit and the number of registered voters required for each LH seat.

    a. The number of registered voters is divided by the number of registered voters for each LH seat.

    b. The result of the division is rounded off.

    c. This rounded off number shall be divided into two parts.

        i. One part, which is the ceiling when the rounded off number is divided by 2, is the allocated number for the said Basic Unit Parliamentary District.

        ii. The other part, which is the floor when the rounded off number is divided by 2, is allocated to the National Parliamentary District for the LH seats.

17. The allocation of seats in the National Parliamentary District for the Upper House (and for each of the Lower House) is determined by the actual number of votes cast for the PR voting system, which shall be done in two stages just like Germany's Bundestag.

    a. The number of seats for the National Parliamentary District shall be allocated to each accredited party in proportion to the number of votes it obtained nationwide.

    b. The number of seats allocated to each party shall be partitioned and distributed to its State or Regional Lists in proportion to the number of votes each state or regional component obtained.

18. The allocation of seats at the lower Parliamentary District level either at the State or Regional level or the Basic Unit level shall be done

    a. by first-pass-the-post of the accredited parties if there is only one seat available for that level, otherwise

    b. by a method which is in proportion to the number of votes each of the accredited parties obtained in the said voting district, if there are two or more seats available.

19. In a unicameral parliament, the allocation of seats similar to that for the Lower House shall be implemented.

Illustration

There are **55,735,757** registered voters in the 2016 national election.

The total number of Upper House seats (senators) given the required number of registered voters per seat is given below.

Number Of Registered Voters Per Senator	Total Number Of Senators
1,000,000	56
1,250,000	45
1,500,000	**37**
1,750,000	32
2,000,000	28

The total number of Lower House seats (MPs) given the required number of registered voters per seat is given below.

Number of Registered Voters Per MP	Total Number of MPs
100,000	557
125,000	446
150,000	**372**
175,000	318
200,000	279

At 1,500,000 registered voters per UH seat, we have the following distribution per region at the 19 State or Regional Parliamentary Districts.

AT 1,500,000 REGISTERED VOTERS PER UH Seat			
	Region	Number of Registered Voters	Number of UH Seats per Region
1	**REGION IV-A**	**7,619,272**	**3**
2	**NCR**	**6,253,249**	**2**
3	**REGION III**	**6,056,392**	**2**
4	**REGION VII**	**3,590,044**	**1**

	Region	Registered Voters	Seats
5	**REGION V**	**3,121,662**	**1**
6	**REGION I**	**2,950,775**	**1**
7	**REGION VIII**	**2,698,880**	**1**
8	**REGION XI**	**2,659,704**	**1**
9	**REGION VI**	**2,578,661**	**1**
10	**REGION X**	**2,541,331**	**1**
11	**NIR**	**2,449,204**	**1**
12	**REGION XII**	**2,086,112**	**1**
13	**REGION IX**	**1,931,795**	**1**
14	**REGION II**	**1,920,952**	**1**
15	**REGION IV-B**	**1,589,326**	**1**
16	**REGION XIII**	**1,547,093**	**1**
17	**OAV**	**1,371,913**	**1**
18	**ARMM_MainlandProvinces**	**1,118,758**	**1**
19	**CAR**	**906,162**	**1**
20	**ARMM_IslandProvinces**	**744,472**	**1**
	TOTAL FOR REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICTS FOR UH SEATS =	**54,991,285**	**24**
	TOTAL FOR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICT FOR UH SEATS =		**13**

At 150,000 registered voters per LH seat, we have the following distribution of seats at the 125 Basic Unit Parliamentary Districts:

	Region	**Basic Unit**	**Number of Registered Voters**	**LH Seats Per Unit**
1	**ARMM_IslandProvinces**	**SULU**	**324,543**	**1**

2	ARMM_IslandProvinces	BASILAN	236,050	1
3	ARMM_IslandProvinces	TAWI-TAWI	183,879	1
4	ARMM_MainlandProvinces	MAGUINDANAO	530,793	2
5	ARMM_MainlandProvinces	LANAO DEL SUR	484,435	2
6	ARMM_MainlandProvinces	COTABATO CITY	103,530	1
7	CAR	BENGUET	204,497	1
8	CAR	ABRA	156,968	1
9	CAR	BAGUIO CITY	147,794	1
10	CAR	KALINGA	121,375	1
11	CAR	IFUGAO	112,328	1
12	CAR	MOUNTAIN PROVINCE	98,333	1
13	CAR	APAYAO	64,867	1
14	NCR	QUEZON CITY	1,150,342	4
15	NCR	MANILA	974,479	3
16	NCR	CALOOCAN CITY	648,933	2
17	NCR	CITY OF MAKATI	397,587	2
18	NCR	CITY OF PASIG	390,923	2
19	NCR	TAGUIG	369,095	1
20	NCR	CITY OF VALENZUELA	318,931	1
21	NCR	CITY OF MUNTINLUPA	309,595	1
22	NCR	CITY OF LAS PINAS	304,311	1
23	NCR	CITY OF PARANAQUE	291,067	1
24	NCR	PASAY CITY	253,824	1
25	NCR	CITY OF MARIKINA	217,711	1
26	NCR	CITY OF MANDALUYONG	200,760	1
27	NCR	MALABON CITY	194,733	1
28	NCR	NAVOTAS CITY	125,795	1
29	NCR	SAN JUAN CITY	71,225	1
30	NCR	PATEROS	33,938	1
31	NIR	NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	1,388,951	5
32	NIR	NEGROS ORIENTAL	785,712	3
33	NIR	BACOLOD CITY	274,541	1
34	OAV	MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAS	590,724	2
35	OAV	ASIA	343,813	1
36	OAV	NORTH AND LATIN AMERICA	275,689	1
37	OAV	EUROPE	161,687	1
38	REGION I	PANGASINAN	1,600,077	6

39	REGION I	LA UNION	454,778	2
40	REGION I	ILOCOS SUR	411,951	2
41	REGION I	ILOCOS NORTE	378,786	2
42	REGION I	DAGUPAN CITY	105,183	1
43	REGION II	ISABELA	821,937	3
44	REGION II	CAGAYAN	647,035	2
45	REGION II	NUEVA VIZCAYA	246,540	1
46	REGION II	QUIRINO	104,461	1
47	REGION II	CITY OF SANTIAGO	89,973	1
48	REGION II	BATANES	11,006	1
49	REGION III	BULACAN	1,640,615	6
50	REGION III	NUEVA ECIJA	1,314,658	5
51	REGION III	PAMPANGA	1,102,828	4
52	REGION III	TARLAC	555,185	2
53	REGION III	BATAAN	494,076	2
54	REGION III	ZAMBALES	346,538	1
55	REGION III	CITY OF TARLAC	184,341	1
56	REGION III	ANGELES CITY	175,432	1
57	REGION III	AURORA	126,525	1
58	REGION III	OLONGAPO CITY	116,194	1
59	REGION IV-A	CAVITE	1,843,163	6
60	REGION IV-A	LAGUNA	1,675,366	6
61	REGION IV-A	BATANGAS	1,526,195	5
62	REGION IV-A	RIZAL	1,450,458	5
63	REGION IV-A	QUEZON	986,204	4
64	REGION IV-A	LUCENA CITY	137,886	1
65	REGION IV-B	PALAWAN	455,393	2
66	REGION IV-B	ORIENTAL MINDORO	445,216	2
67	REGION IV-B	OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	249,734	1
68	REGION IV-B	ROMBLON	175,209	1
69	REGION IV-B	MARINDUQUE	136,110	1
70	REGION IV-B	PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	127,664	1
71	REGION V	CAMARINES SUR	916,397	3
72	REGION V	ALBAY	742,204	3
73	REGION V	MASBATE	477,701	2
74	REGION V	SORSOGON	425,025	2
75	REGION V	CAMARINES NORTE	300,890	1
76	REGION V	CATANDUANES	173,972	1

77	REGION V	NAGA CITY	85,473	1
78	REGION VI	ILOILO	1,086,033	4
79	REGION VI	CAPIZ	457,382	2
80	REGION VI	AKLAN	345,359	1
81	REGION VI	ANTIQUE	322,861	1
82	REGION VI	ILOILO CITY	261,481	1
83	REGION VI	GUIMARAS	105,545	1
84	REGION VII	CEBU	1,713,758	6
85	REGION VII	BOHOL	798,768	3
86	REGION VII	CEBU CITY	630,003	2
87	REGION VII	MANDAUE CITY	189,712	1
88	REGION VII	LAPU-LAPU CITY	188,815	1
89	REGION VII	SIQUIJOR	68,988	1
90	REGION VIII	LEYTE	908,896	3
91	REGION VIII	SAMAR (WESTERN SAMAR)	490,421	2
92	REGION VIII	NORTHERN SAMAR	386,163	2
93	REGION VIII	EASTERN SAMAR	300,818	1
94	REGION VIII	SOUTHERN LEYTE	261,148	1
95	REGION VIII	TACLOBAN CITY	124,777	1
96	REGION VIII	ORMOC CITY	117,824	1
97	REGION VIII	BILIRAN	108,833	1
98	REGION IX	ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	605,146	2
99	REGION IX	ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	563,155	2
100	REGION IX	ZAMBOANGA CITY	412,795	2
101	REGION IX	ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY	350,699	1
102	REGION X	BUKIDNON	765,898	3
103	REGION X	MISAMIS ORIENTAL	557,839	2
104	REGION X	MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL	365,267	1
105	REGION X	LANAO DEL NORTE	324,106	1
106	REGION X	CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY	305,321	1
107	REGION X	ILIGAN CITY	165,330	1
108	REGION X	CAMIGUIN	57,570	1
109	REGION XI	DAVAO CITY	873,670	3
110	REGION XI	DAVAO (DAVAO DEL NORTE)	525,342	2

111	REGION XI	COMPOSTELA VALLEY	408,539	2
112	REGION XI	DAVAO DEL SUR	373,692	1
113	REGION XI	DAVAO ORIENTAL	319,942	1
114	REGION XI	DAVAO OCCIDENTAL	158,519	1
115	REGION XII	COTABATO (NORTH COT.)	669,019	2
116	REGION XII	SOUTH COTABATO	476,855	2
117	REGION XII	SULTAN KUDARAT	392,693	2
118	REGION XII	SARANGANI	300,075	1
119	REGION XII	GENERAL SANTOS CITY	247,470	1
120	REGION XIII	AGUSAN DEL SUR	373,500	1
121	REGION XIII	SURIGAO DEL SUR	367,528	1
122	REGION XIII	SURIGAO DEL NORTE	325,053	1
123	REGION XIII	AGUSAN DEL NORTE	219,692	1
124	REGION XIII	BUTUAN CITY	192,269	1
125	REGION XIII	DINAGAT ISLANDS	69,051	1
TOTAL FOR BASIC UNIT PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICTS FOR LH SEATS =			55,735,757	225
TOTAL FOR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICT FOR LH SEATS =				147

Reference:
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