

## **INDIRECT ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT IS THE BETTER METHOD OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY**

The proposed system of indirect national elections for President is the better method of representative democracy, because it eliminates the inherent bias for “rich” and “famous” under the present system of direct national elections.

The “rich” candidates are those who can afford to spend billions to campaign and make themselves known to the Filipino voters nationwide. The “famous” candidates are the entertainment, sports and media celebrities who no longer need to campaign because they are already known to the Filipino voters at large.

“Rich” and “famous” candidates thrive best in direct national elections at large where popularity generally takes precedence over performance. However, in the context of local, sectoral and regional elections, “fame” and “fortune” generally do not carry as much weight as actual track records of public service.

Under the proposed system, the combined regional elections for Regional Representatives (replacing Senators), local elections for District Representatives, and sectoral elections for Sectoral Representatives, also serve as the indirect national elections for President. This is so because the party that assumes majority control of Congress, also assumes the power to elect the President.

Under parliamentary practice which adopts indirect elections for chief executive (Prime Minister), the head of a party is ordinarily its candidate for chief executive. Therefore, there is no undue curtailment of the right of suffrage, because the voter is free to consider the party’s known candidate for chief executive, when voting for the members of Parliament.

By analogy, where indirect elections is adopted in electing the President, there will also be no undue curtailment of the right of suffrage, because the voter will be free to consider the party’s known candidate for President, when voting for Regional Representatives (replacing Senators), District Representatives, and Sectoral Representatives.

Even under the American presidential system, the President is not elected through direct national elections at large, but rather elected indirectly through a national college of electors, comprised of representatives elected at the local state level.

Thus, the adoption of indirect national elections for President is advocated. The proposed system promotes representative democracy, because it eliminates the bias for “rich” and “famous” candidates. This effectively expands the roster of winnable candidates for President.

The modern private corporation may serve as a working model for indirect elections. Under a corporation, the shareholders or members merely elect their representatives to the governing board. The board assumes the power, not only to establish policy, but also to elect the officers tasked to implement the established policy. The corporate system maximizes not only flexibility but also accountability.

This article was written ex-gratia by Demosthenes B. Donato for the  
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