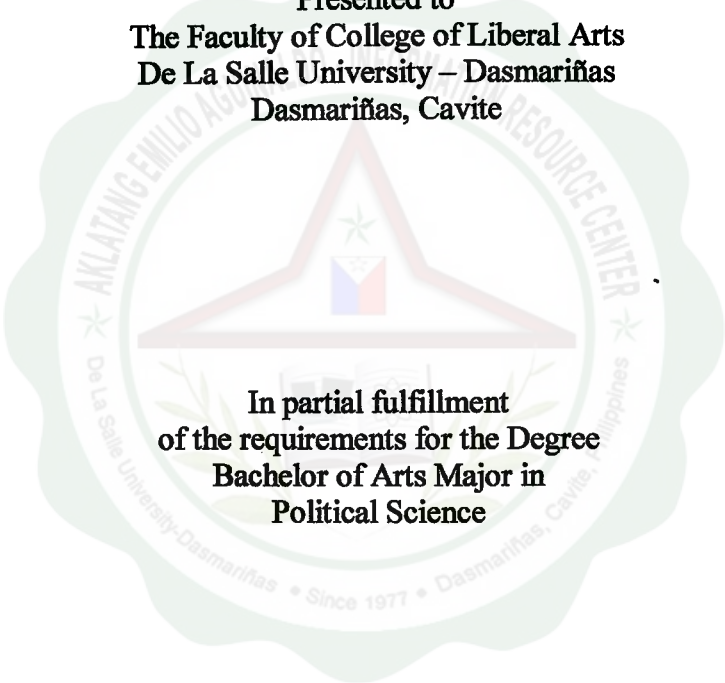




**De La Salle University – Dasmariñas**

**THE PERFORMANCE EFFICIENCY OF AKBAYAN AND  
SANLAKAS PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES  
DURING THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS (1998-2001)**

**An Undergraduate Thesis  
Presented to  
The Faculty of College of Liberal Arts  
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas  
Dasmariñas, Cavite**



**In partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Arts Major in  
Political Science**

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**TITLE:** The Performance Efficiency of AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS Party-List Representatives During the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress (1998-2001)

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**OBJECTIVES:**

**A. GENERAL:** This study aims to analyze the performance efficiency of AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS party-list representatives during the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress (1998-2001).

**B. SPECIFIC:** a. To know what is AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS as a representative of the marginalized sector.

b. To know if AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS were able to respond to the needs and concerns of the marginalized sector they represent.

c. To know the factors that affects the performance efficiency of AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS during the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress.

d. To know the implications of their legislative output in their performance efficiency.

e. To know if AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS responded to the ever growing needs of the sectors they represent in such a way that they were able to achieve their reforms and agendas.

**METHODOLOGY:** The researchers of this study used the descriptive approach. To further describe the performance efficiency of the party-list representatives in giving their respective sector the help needed to further feel their presence as underprivileged that must not be left alone because of their major contribution to the government. The respondents are AKBAYAN and



SANLAKAS party-lists during the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress. Different ways on getting data were used, like the periodicals, books, internet and most especially the interviews conducted by the researchers. As for the materials used, it was summed up to four important things namely: the World Wide Web, library catalogues, lots of internet cards and video camcorders.

**CONCLUSION:** a. Both SANLAKAS and AKBAYAN are multi-sectoral parties, for unlike most of the Party List groups, their political agenda tends to have a holistic approach use, they recognize the importance of economic, political, social and cultural reforms in achieving their goals for their constituencies. Both parties are not a member of any coalition, which grants them independence from big political parties and thereby insulating them from compromises and gaining favor.

b. Both AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS responded to the needs and concerns of the marginalize sector they represent by way of creating bills that will give them the benefits and protection they wanted. With the power to create bills and the authority to fight for the rights of the marginalized, under-represented and unrepresented they manage to respond to the needs and concerns of their respective parties.

c. One of the main factors that affect the performance efficiency of both party-lists as stated by Rep. Rosales is the different interests of legislators. If the bills will not benefit the legislators' interest they tend to dump it. Another reason is their attendance. If they were present they may lobby their bills and gain support from other legislators. Also, the lack of



unity among and between the party-list representatives and district representatives due to their advocacy of different reforms, interests and agendas that makes the situation even harder.

d. The ultimate fulfillment of their duties is to enact a law. Sadly, these two party-list representatives failed to pass their bills into laws. They have filed a number of bills and resolutions but they were not fortunate enough to have most of it enacted. The problem lies not in the lack of political will but rather, due to the ganging up and isolating the Party-list representatives from the traditional politicians.

e. They were able to respond to the concerns of the marginalized sectors, by electing their representatives in order to create and pass bills that will benefit the sectors they represent. But they also cited that they were not able to realize their legislative agenda because they have to accept the compromises imposed by their district representatives.

**RECOMMENDATION:** a. AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS should continue to represent the marginalized sector in its collective effort to alleviate its status from under-representation. The party-list system was designed to strike a balance among all sectors involved in the affairs of the country. With too much representatives from dominant sectors particularly the ruling elite and the business sector, in addition to a condition where the powerless remains under-represented in the government's policy-making body, to



institute a mechanism which will ensure participation from these marginalized sectors is a matter of necessity.

Secondarily, a mechanism must be designed in order to ensure that elected party-list groups and their representatives remain faithful to their sworn duty as representatives of the underrepresented.

b. The party-list representatives should muster enough political will to not only to respond to the needs and concerns of the marginalized sectors through advocacies but more through negotiations and mobilizations which will pressure abusive persons in authority to surrender political power to those who are in need thereof, the poorly represented and marginalized sectors.

The party-list groups must become models of participatory governance, vanguards of democracy and protectors of the national interest. Their needs and concerns must be set as a matter of legislative priority. Hence, AKBAYAN and SANLAKAS must focus on lobbying specific issues and concerns.

c. The party-list representatives themselves are virtually marginalized. They being a minority in the House of Representatives make them susceptible to the abuses and caprices of traditional politicians. With this being the case, it is an important motion to have more party-list representatives in the Congress. With more seats allowable for party-list



groups, this will assure a stronger “genuine opposition group”. Such move will redefine “representation” in the House of Representatives.

d. The poor performance of the two party-list representatives in terms of their legislative output has its first and primary factor, the outside environment. Bills proposed by party-list groups are often busted by those who are in the seat of power, particularly through the influences of the business sector, powerful politicians and dominant political parties. In order to avoid this, every bills passed by party-list groups must be monitored very well. Organize volunteers that will lobby for the promotion of public welfare through mass campaigns and press releases through various media forms. A need to sensationalize controversial bills proposed must be recognized, otherwise, traditional politicians will bust the bill by any means necessary.

e. The party-list groups must work harder in organizing people coming from the marginalized sectors they represent. Only with people’s support can they achieve the reforms that are pushed for in this elite-dominated society. Without their support, the endeavors of party-list groups would be nothing but a personal campaign instead of a noble/heroic mass campaign. Such move will also increase their knowledge or background on the concerns of the sectors they represent.



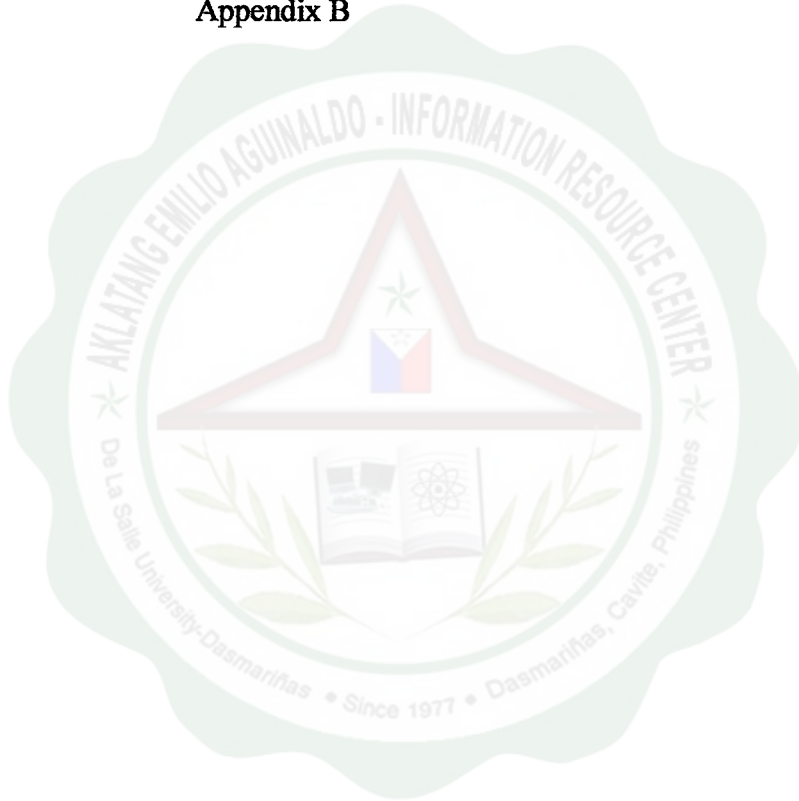


**Table of Contents**

Title .....	i
Approval Sheet .....	ii
Abstract .....	iii
Table of Contents .....	viii
List of Figures .....	x
Acknowledgment .....	xi
<b>CHAPTER I</b> .....	<b>1</b>
Introduction .....	1
History background .....	2
Related Literature .....	5
Local .....	5
Foreign .....	20
Conceptual Framework .....	24
Statement of the Problem .....	25
Assumptions .....	26
Significance of the study .....	27
Scope and limitation .....	30
Definition of terms .....	30
<b>CHAPTER II</b> .....	<b>32</b>
Research method .....	32
Subject of the study .....	32
Data gathering .....	32
Materials used .....	33
<b>CHAPTER III</b> .....	<b>34</b>
Specific problem no. 1 .....	34
Sub-specific problem 1.1 .....	34
Sub-specific problem 1.2 .....	36
Specific problem no. 2 .....	37
Specific problem no. 3 .....	38
Specific problem no. 4 .....	39
Specific problem no. 5 .....	43



<b>Chapter IV</b>	45
Summary	45
Conclusion	47
Recommendation	49
Reference	52
<b>Appendices</b>	55
Appendix A	
Appendix B	







List of Figures

Figure 1	.....	41
Figure 2	.....	42

