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NAMFREL supports prioritization of authentic anti-political dynasty measures

The National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) supports the prioritization of four proposed legislative measures recently highlighted, which includes the Anti-Dynasty bill. On November 10, 2025, NAMFREL submitted to the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms its recommendations for an electoral reform legislation agenda for the 20th Congress, highlighting twelve priority legislative measures, including an Anti-Political Dynasty Act.

In its proposal, NAMFREL emphasizes key provisions that an Anti-Political Dynasty Act should include:

- **Definition:** Prohibit relatives within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from simultaneously holding elective positions within the same province or city;
- **Temporal Restrictions:** Bar immediate family members from succeeding each other in the same position for at least one intervening term;
- **National Scope:** Apply restrictions to all levels - from barangay to national positions;
- **Transition Period:** Three-year implementation period for current officeholders;
- **Exceptions:** Positions won before effectivity exempted until term completion.

Political dynasties perpetuate patronage networks, limit political competition, and create conditions conducive to corruption by consolidating resources and power within family networks. NAMFREL's observations through the years confirm that "the problems of lack of accountability and corruption in governance are ultimately traceable to the country's historically evolved political processes" including "the dominance of elite interests – both local and national – in politics and political contests." (PDP 2011-2016)

NAMFREL's proposed agenda to Congress comprises eleven more legislative measures covering electoral reform and corruption: Campaign



Finance Transparency Act, Philippine Anti-Corruption in Elections Act – Applying RICO-style prosecution to dismantle electoral racketeering networks (RICO - the United States' Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act); election code modernization; political party strengthening; electoral dispute resolution; voter education; media access; electoral integrity; gender parity, COMELEC strengthening; and civil society partnerships. The proposals address the systemic issues that continue to plague the Philippine electoral landscape: the stranglehold of political dynasties, the opacity of campaign finance that enables corruption, the weakness of the political party system, the obsolescence of the 40-year-old election code, and the vulnerabilities in Philippine election management and technology systems.

NAMFREL adds its voice to those urging Congress to prioritize these bills. NAMFREL's mission remains steadfast: "to ensure that all elections reflect the true will of informed voters" and to secure "transparent, low-cost, competitive, inclusive, orderly, free, and fair elections." These reforms are essential to breaking the corruption-politics nexus that has captured Philippine governance.

Read NAMFREL's Proposal for an Electoral Reform Legislative Agenda For the 20th Congress - House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reform here: <https://bit.ly/3JqE3Ks> ###

