

ANNEX 1: COUNTRY PROFILES



FIJI

Geography and People

Fiji consists 300 islands (100 are inhabited). The population is around 840,201. Fiji is a multi-racial society and “the indigenous Fijians” and the “Indo-Fijians” make up 54 percent and 38 percent of the population, respectively.

History

Fiji was a British colony from 1874-1970. The majority of the structures and systems of government are inherited from that colonial period. The indentured labour system (1879-1916) introduced workers from India.

Indigenous Fijians have dominated politics since independence. In 1987 there were 2 military coups led by Major Rabuka (as he was then) and the democratically elected Coalition government was removed from power. 1990 saw a new Constitution drafted heavily in favour of the indigenous Fijians. However, in 1997 a new Constitution for Fiji was adopted which favoured power-sharing and multi-ethnicity in government. The 1999 elections under the newly adopted voting system led to a victory for the People’s Coalition Government. In May 2000 failed Suva businessman George Speight led an unsuccessful coup which did, however, remove the elected government from power.

Culture and Religion

The major religions practised in Fiji are Christianity and Hinduism. The majority of indigenous Fijians are Christians and the majority of the Indo-Fijians are Hindu with a small percentage of Indo-Fijians being Muslims (approximately 8%). Other religions practised in Fiji include Confucianism and Sikhism. Religious fundamentalism in all religions has increased with all religions advocating the maintenance of gender roles to strengthen religious identity.

Socio-Economic Context

Fiji’s currency is the Fiji dollar. Fiji’s economy is larger and more developed than any other Pacific Island nation, with a per capita GDP of US\$2,300 in 1996. The economy is mainly dependent on tourism and sugar production.



Over 90 percent of adults are literate and there are no marked gender differences in school enrolments with girls comprising of 48.5 percent of primary school enrolment and 50 percent of secondary school enrolment.

Women remain more vulnerable to poverty and poorer households have a higher proportion of women as their heads. Cultural and other discrimination make women extremely vulnerable to poverty. Violence against women and girls is prevalent in Fiji. Approximately 66 percent of women who participated in a study conducted by the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre reported being hit by their partners.



INDIA

Geography and People

The subcontinent of India lies in south Asia, between Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Nepal. To the north it is bordered by the world's highest mountain chain. Total land area is 3.1 million sq km (excluding Indian-administered Kashmir 100,569 sq km), which supports a population of 1.1 billion. Side by side with the country's staggering topographical variations is its cultural diversity, the result of the coexistence of a number of religions as well as local tradition.

History

The Indus Valley civilisation, one of the oldest in the world, dates back at least 5,000 years. Aryan tribes from the northwest invaded about 1500BC; their merger with the earlier Dravidian inhabitants created the classical Indian culture. Arab incursions started around the 8th century and Turkish and Moghul around the 12th were followed by those of European traders, beginning in the late 15th century. By the 19th century, Britain had assumed political control of virtually all Indian lands. Indian armed forces in the British army played a vital role in both World Wars. Non-violent resistance to British colonialism led primarily by Mohandas Gandhi brought independence in 1947. The subcontinent was divided into the secular Republic of India and the smaller Islamic Republic of Pakistan. A third war between the two countries in 1971 resulted in East Pakistan becoming the separate nation of Bangladesh.

Culture and Religion

English enjoys associate status but is widely used for national, political, and commercial communication. Hindi is the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people and there are 14 other official languages.

Among the ethnic groups Indo-Aryan comprise 72% of the population, Dravidian 25%, Mongoloid and other 3%. India's history goes back to 3,200 BC when Hinduism (81.3% of the population today) was first founded. Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam all exist, to a greater or lesser degree, within the country today. (India, after Indonesia, has the world's second-largest Muslim population.)



Socio-Economic Context

Monetary unit of India is the Indian rupee which equals 100 paise. India's economy encompasses traditional village farming, modern agriculture, handicrafts, a wide range of modern industries, and a multitude of support services. Government controls have been reduced on foreign trade and investment, and privatisation of domestic output has proceeded slowly. The economy has posted an excellent average growth rate of 6.8% since 1994, reducing poverty by about 10%. India is capitalising on its large numbers of well-educated people skilled in the English language to become a major exporter of software services and software workers.

The huge and growing population is the fundamental social, economic, and environmental problem. Recent surveys have shown that life expectancy for men is 62 years and for women it is 65 years. In late December 2004, a major tsunami took at least 60,000 lives in southeastern India and caused massive destruction of property.

The world's largest democracy and second most populous country has emerged as a major power after a period of foreign rule and several decades during which its economy was recovering. A nuclear weapons state, it carried out a programme of tests in the late 1990s in defiance of world opinion. Despite impressive gains in economic investment and output, India faces pressing problems such as the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic and religious strife.



KOREA

Geography and People

The Korean peninsula extends southward from the eastern end of the Asian continent with an area of 99,500 sq km and is populated by 47.9 million people. Ethnically, with the exception of a small Nationalist Chinese minority, the population is almost entirely of Korean descent. Mountains cover 70% of the territory, making it one of the most mountainous regions in the world. The 38th parallel divides the Korean peninsula into two parts, the democratic Republic of Korea in the south and communist North Korea in the north, with the demilitarised zone in between.

History

Korea was an independent kingdom under Chinese suzerainty for most of the past millennium. Following its victory in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan occupied Korea; five years later it formally annexed the entire peninsula. After World War II, a republic was set up in the southern half of the Korean Peninsula while a Communist-style government was installed in the north. During the Korean War (1950-53), US and UN forces intervened to defend South Korea from North Korean attacks supported by the Chinese. An armistice was signed in 1953, splitting the peninsula along a demilitarised zone at about the 38th parallel. In 1987, South Korean voters elected Roh Tae-woo to the presidency, ending 26 years of military dictatorships. South Korea today is a fully functioning modern democracy. In June 2000, a historic first North-South summit took place between the South's President Kim Tae-Chung and the North's leader Kim Jong II.

Culture and Religion

The nation uses vibrant colours for its festivities which is said to be due to Mongolian influences. Family ties are an important aspect of familial relations, not excluding relations involving business. Korean values spring from a large number of influences, including Confucianism, Neo-Confucianism, ancestor worship, Buddhism, and more recently Christianity and authoritarianism. Although Korea is sometimes described as a Confucian society, this would be an over-simplification of the culture akin to describing the culture of China or Japan in the same terms. Korean is the official language.



Socio-Economic context

Since the early 1960s, South Korea has achieved an incredible record of growth and integration into the high-tech modern world economy. In 2004, it joined the trillion dollar club of world economies. Today its GDP per capita is 14 times North Korea's. This success through the late 1980s was achieved by a system of close government/business ties, including directed credit, import restrictions, sponsorship of specific industries, and a strong labour effort. The Asian financial crisis of 1997-99 exposed longstanding weaknesses in South Korea's development model, including high debt/equity ratios, massive foreign borrowing, and an undisciplined financial sector. Led by consumer spending and exports, growth in 2002 was an impressive 7.0%, despite anemic global growth. Economic growth fell in 2003 because of a downturn in consumer spending and recovered to an estimated 4.6% in 2004 on the strength of rapid export growth. The government plans to boost infrastructure spending in 2005. Moderate inflation, low unemployment, an export surplus, and fairly equal distribution of income characterise this solid economy.



KYRGYZSTAN

Geography and People

Formerly known as Kirghizia, the Central Asian landlocked republic of Kyrgyzstan has an area of 198,500 sq km. The origin of the Kyrgyz as a people continues to be debated. What is certain, however, is that as a people the Kyrgyz are close to the Kazakhs and that their movement, too, is tied to the westward march of the orders of Chingiz Khan. Today Kyrgyzstan has a population of 4,892,808 (75 percent Muslim), made up of 52.4% Kyrgyz, 18% Russian (50% in urban cents), 12.9 % Uzbek, 2.5% Ukrainian, and 2.4 % German.

History

Historically, the Kyrgyz, an ancient Turkic tribal people, were a major power along the Yenisei River. They developed a “runic” script and established an elaborate civilisation. Islamisation of the Kyrgyz could have occurred either after they settled in the Tien Shan region or, possibly, after the Mongol onslaught.

Kyrgyzstan was incorporated into the Russian Empire in 1876. This played a major part in the shaping of Soviet Kyrgyzstan. First, the Soviets crushed the Basmachi movement, a movement that advocated national independence and a return of the waqf (religious endowments) lands. Following that, the Kyrgyz were forced to abandon their nomadic lifestyle and settle in makeshift towns and villages. Things got even worse when, in 1937, after the completion of collectivisation of Kyrgyz agriculture, all the manifestations of the Kyrgyz past were dissolved.

Kyrgyzstan gained its independence from the Soviet Union on August 31, 1991 and has worked on privatisation, political freedom, and human rights issues.

Culture and Religion

Contemporary Kyrgyz culture is quite complex. It comprises ancient Kyrgyz myths and legends, especially about the time that the Kyrgyz had not become Islamised and their interaction with Muslim traders who, gradually, familiarised them with the culture of Islam. The majority of the Kyrgyz (75%) are Muslim. Of the rest, 20%, primarily Slavs, are Russian Orthodox, and 5% belong to Lutheranism (Germans), Buddhism (Chinese), and other religions.



Islam in Kyrgyzstan is influenced both by the conservatism of the Kazakhs and the extremism of the Tajiks.

Socio-Economic Context

Kyrgyz and Russian are Kyrgyzstan's official languages and nearly 97% of the population is literate. Life expectancy is 64 years for men and 72 years for women. About 55% of the citizens live below the poverty line. Since independence, the flow of the rural populations, attracted by market-oriented jobs, has been a constant.

The economy of Kyrgyzstan is predominantly agricultural. Only 7% of Kyrgyzstan is arable land, the remaining 93% is mountain and steppe, that the Kyrgyz use for grazing fine-fleece sheep, horse breeding, and dairy farming.

One of the major contributors to Kyrgyz economy is hydroelectric power generated by hydroelectric stations on the Naryn River. They produce not only most of the energy needs of the republic, but also much surplus energy for export to neighbouring countries. Kyrgyzstan's next promising economic sector is gold.

On December 20, 1991, Kyrgyzstan became the first among the Commonwealth of Independent States to transfer all its state-owned enterprises to the private sector. This played a substantial role in the country's economic recovery.

Kyrgyzstan's national currency is the som. The country's total exports in 2000 were estimated at \$504.5 million. In 1999, Kyrgyzstan's external debt was estimated at \$1.1 billion. In 1995, Kyrgyzstan received \$329.4 million in economic aid.



MALAYSIA

Geography and People

Its geographical position is slightly north of the Equator with the South China Sea between peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak states on Borneo island. Despite the intense economic developments and urbanisation that have taken place, the country maintains its lush green landscape, clean sandy beaches and jungle-covered mountains. Malaysia is buoyant and wealthy, and has moved towards a pluralist culture based on a vibrant and interesting fusion of Malay, Chinese, Indian and indigenous cultures and customs.

History

Malaysia was formed in 1963 through a federation of the former British colonies of Malaya and Singapore, including the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. Prior to that, the Malay peninsula gained its independence from the British in 1957. The first several years of the country's history were marred by Indonesian efforts to control Malaysia, Philippine claims to Sabah, and Singapore's secession from the federation in 1965. It consists of 13 states and 3 federal territories. Malaysia is now a constitutional monarchy with a bicameral parliamentary system. The Barisan Nasional, a dominant coalition party, has formed the government since its formation in 1974. Before that it was the Parti Perikatan which formed the original core of the Barisan Nasional. Since the first federal election in 1955, general elections, both at the state and federal levels, have been held regularly every five years.

Culture and Religion

Its population is about 24 million people from more than 30 ethnic groups. Of the total population, roughly about 56% bumiputras that are predominantly Malay Muslims, natives of Sabah and Sarawak and indigenous groups of Peninsular Malaysia; 34% Chinese; 9% Indians and other minor ethnic groups. The official religion is Islam and Malaysia was declared an Islamic state by the former Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad in 2001. Other religions are Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, animism and various other indigenous belief systems.

Socio-Economic Context

The population enjoys a literacy rate of above 85% while life expectancies for men are above seventy years and for women above eighty years.



In 2005 second quarter, the Malaysian GDP grew by 5.7%, its industrial production grew by 3.4% and its consumer-price inflation eased to 3.0% over the same period. Since 1997, in order to keep the country financially stable during the Asian financial crisis, the Malaysian ringgit was fixed at RM3.8 to USD1.0. In August 2005 it was unpegged and its current rate is at a stable RM3.7 to USD1.0.

Malaysia has thrived within the ASEAN concept of Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and has a viable standing as an independent and sovereign state in the current era of globalisation. It especially garnered respect from the international community when it took a strong independent stand vis a vis the IMF and survived the global as well as Asian economic and financial crisis of the late 1990s. It participates actively in the UN, ASEAN, OIC, NAM, Commonwealth, and WTO. It thus considers itself an effective player on the international economic and political stages.



THE PHILIPPINES

Geography and People

The Philippines is made up of 7,107 islands covering a land area of 299,764 sq. km. with a total population of 75.33 million. The capital is Manila. From a long history of Western colonial rule, interspersed with the visits of merchants and traders, evolved a people of a unique blend of east and west, both in appearance and culture.

History

The Philippines is the third largest English speaking country in the world. It has a rich history combining Asian, European, and American influences. Prior to Spanish colonisation in 1521, the Filipinos had a rich culture and were trading with the Chinese and Japanese. In 1898, after 350 years and 300 rebellions, the Filipinos succeeded in winning their independence from Spain.

In 1898, the Philippines became the first and only colony of the United States. Following the Philippine-American War, the United States brought widespread education to the islands through the public school system, but this only intensified colonial domination of the people. The Philippines was granted its independence in 1946, but to the majority of the people, it is a bogus independence because the United States continues to date to have economic, political and cultural control over the country.

Elite democracy operates in the Philippines, and that's why the Filipinos, who are a freedom-loving people, have waged two bloodless people's uprisings against what were perceived as corrupt regimes.

Culture and Religion

The Filipino character is actually a little bit of all the cultures put together. The bayanihan or spirit of kinship and camaraderie that Filipinos are famous for is said to be taken from Malay forebears. The close family relations are said to have been inherited from the Chinese. The piousness comes from the Spaniards who introduced Christianity in the 16th century. The Filipinos are divided geographically and culturally into regions, and each group is recognisable by distinct traits and dialects. Ethnic groups include 91.5% Christian Malay, 4% Muslim Malay, 1.5% Chinese, and 3% other.

Some 80% of the population is Catholic, Spain's lasting legacy, and about 15% is Moslem. The rest of the population is made up mostly of smaller Christian denominations and Buddhist.



Socio-Economic Context

The Philippines monetary unit is the peso, divided into 100 centavos. Since the end of the Second World War, the Philippine economy has had a mixed history of growth and development. Over the years, the Philippines has gone from being one of the richest countries in Asia (following Japan) to being one of the poorest.

Important sectors of the Philippine economy include agriculture and industry, particularly food processing, textiles and garments, and electronics and automobile parts. Mining transnationals see the great potential in the Philippines, which possesses significant reserves of chromite, nickel, and copper. Significant natural-gas finds off the islands of Palawan have added to the country's substantial geothermal, hydro, and coal energy reserves.



ANNEX 2: MANIFESTOS



THE FIJIAN ASSOCIATION PARTY MANIFESTO¹

Some of the highlights of the manifesto are:

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Fijian Association is proposing several measures to alleviate the unemployment problem.

1. We will significantly increase funding for income generating projects particularly for women in rural and urban areas.
2. We will establish Youth Open Centers for training young people in basic trades such as carpentry, electrical and plumbing and they will assist in community projects, particularly village development.
3. We will increase technical and financial assistance to landowners to increase the commercial potential of their land, to create new jobs.
4. We will increase funding for small- to medium-size business particularly resource based projects involving landowning units.

EDUCATION

Many Fijian students are unable to complete their education because of financial difficulties. The Fijian Association is also concerned at the high failure rate of Fijian students, particularly Fijian Affairs Board Scholarship students.

1. The Fijian Association will provide financial assistance to families in need and provide for such things as uniforms, bus fares and books.
2. Apart from increased funding for primary and secondary schools, we will increase funding to support teacher training and retraining and offer incentives for qualified teachers to be posted to rural areas.
3. We will ensure that Fijian Affairs Board Scholarships are awarded to the best candidates and we will provide a counseling service for those students to ensure that they complete their courses.

¹ Excerpted from: http://www.undp.org.fj/elections/Elections/parties/fap_man.htm



HEALTH

The role of Government is to provide a health care system that is professional, caring and affordable.

1. The Fijian Association will establish, in co-operation with the Australian and New Zealand Governments, a special fund to ensure that children receive urgent medical treatment overseas as required.
2. We will reduce the cost of public health services to the poor, elderly citizens and the disadvantaged.
3. We will increase funding for preventive health care programmes.
4. We will increase funding of equipment and drugs to rural health centers.

YOUTH

1. The Fijian Association will also establish a National Youth Council to advise Government on Youth Policy Issues.

WOMEN

More needs to be done to enable women to participate more fully in the development of the nation.

1. The Fijian Association will promote the appointment of more women at all levels of decision making in government and the private sector.

I have spoken about more funding for income generating projects for women in rural and urban areas. The Fijian Association will also support stiffer penalties to deter domestic violence and sexual exploitation of women and children.

BUSINESS

1. The Fijian Association will create a new National Business Centre which will provide comprehensive advice on new business and potential local and overseas markets.
2. We will increase financial assistance for Joint Ventures where there is 51% Fijian Equity.
3. We will introduce programmes to develop the planning and commercial skills of Landowning Units.

FIJIAN ADMINISTRATION

The Fijian Association will need to look at the funding, quality of staff and delivery of services of the Fijian Provincial Offices. Fijian Administration



should be at the forefront of lifting the standard of living of our people and in enriching our cultural heritage.

1. The Fijian Association will use the \$20 Million loan to Fijian Holdings to build a Major Complex to promote Fijian Culture and to provide a permanent meeting house for the Great Council of Chiefs.
2. We will upgrade provincial Offices to include Business and Development units.
3. We will upgrade the qualifications of provincial staff particularly at the senior level.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The family

Many families are under stress through economic hardship or face problems of alcoholism, drug abuse and domestic violence.

1. The Fijian Association will increase family assistance through the poverty alleviation fund.
2. We will increase funding for Counseling Services.

The elderly

We need to care better for the elderly and encourage them to continue to lead active healthy lives in their retirement years.

1. The Fijian Association will provide special assistance to those elderly citizens who do not have an adequate income to provide for their own needs.
2. We will increase funding to improve the standards of Nursing Homes.

The disabled

Disabled people need our support to become active members of our community.

1. The Fijian Association will fund programmes to assist disabled people find employment opportunities.

LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES

The productive use of our land and other resources is the key to lifting the living standards of the Fijian people.



1. The Fijian Association will create a New Resources Utilisation Agency that will provide technical advice to landowners on maximising the commercial benefits of their resources.
2. We will increase funding to establish Eco-Tourism Projects to be developed by the landowners.
3. We will ensure that a resolution of ALTA² provides an Economic Return for landowners while at the same time giving tenants reasonable security of tenure.

² 1976 Agricultural Landlord and Tenants Act



THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA'S MANIFESTO¹

The Communist Party of India (CPI) (M)'s manifesto reaffirms its anti-BJP stand, in which it holds the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) responsible for the coming general elections. "After the last general elections, the BJP-led alliance was nowhere near commanding a majority in the Lok Sabha. In spite of this, the BJP opportunistically formed a government under its leadership", it states.

Hitting out at the RSS, it says that the BJP "believes in Hindutva, and is committed to dismantling the secular-democratic values of the Indian Republic. It also lashes out at the BJP by describing its 13-month rule a disaster.

It accuses the BJP of "increasing authoritarianism", for it used the "draconian Article 356 - not once, but twice - to dismiss the elected Bihar state government. It is only the Rajya Sabha, which foiled this brazen attack on democracy".

It goes on further to attack BJP's stand on most of the issues ranging from Prasar Bharati to its economic policy and from Pokhran to Kargil.

It also stresses that Congress is not the alternative and that it is a party bereft of the political and ideological will to rally all the secular and democratic forces to fight the menace of communalism.

The manifesto reinstates its stand on not compromising with communalism in any form. The Left parties stand for uniting all sections of the people in order to advance the struggle to bring in alternative policies opposed to liberalisation and communalism.

The CPI (M) Advocates:

- Legislation for separation of religion and politics in light of the Supreme Court judgement in the Bommai Case.
- Effective prohibition on the use of religious issues for electoral purposes.
- Implementation of the Protection of Places of Worship Act to see that no disputes on religious places arise.

¹ Excerpted from: www.indian-elections.com/partymanifestoes/



- The Ayodhya dispute to be referred to Supreme Court under Article 138(2) for a speedy judicial verdict.
- Special steps to prosecute all those found guilty by the Sri Krishna Commission for the Mumbai riots of 1993.
- Federalism for National Unity.

On Women's Rights

- The CPI (M) commits in policy and practice to fight for women's rights in every sphere at a time when women face the worst assault on their rights.
- While holding the NDA government squarely responsible for the shameful failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, the CPI (M) pledges to continue its firm support for one-third reservation for women in the legislatures and to work for its passage in the new parliament.
- It also supports the important amendments to the Domestic Violence Bill moved by women's organisations and will work for its passage. It will also work for the adoption of laws against sexual harassment and child abuse.
- The CPI (M) supports a huge expansion in employment opportunities for women in the organised sector and in rural areas with equal wages; it will fight all attempts to remove protective legislation for women in the name of labour reform; it supports legislation for unorganised sector workers including home-based workers and domestic workers.
- It demands implementation of joint pattas for women in all land distributed including housing plots given in urban areas by government and special schemes for female headed households.
- The state should provide credit at low rates of interest to self-help groups and assistance to market their products.
- Condemning female foeticide and the alarming decrease in sex ratios, the CPI (M) pledges to strengthen existing laws against female foeticide, implement them and support social campaigns in favour of the girl child. It will strongly oppose any coercive population control measures or the promotion of hazardous contraceptives for women.
- The CPI (M) advocates equal rights for women of all communities. It demands compulsory registration of marriages. Eradication of the practice of dowry as a national mission.



- It also stands for a comprehensive media policy to check the growing trend of commodification of women.



URI PARTY MANIFESTO¹

Heralds of a New Era: Fulfilling the Will of the People

The foundation of the Uri Party was the fruition of a popular aspiration for a different kind of politics, a political renaissance; for Korea must be reborn politically, economically, socially, and culturally, before it can advance into the future. Korea will seek both material and cultural prosperity, and the Uri Party will lead the way with the people of Korea.

Four Major Platforms for the Uri Party:

A Different Kind of Politics

A More Prosperous Nation

A Society that Cares

Peace on the Korean Peninsula

13 MAJOR POLICY GOALS FOR THE URI PARTY

1. Politics of maximum participation and integration
2. Quality government through reforms and decentralisation
3. Creation of a fair and free market economy
4. Equitable taxation and fiscal responsibility
5. Continued strengthening of growth potential
6. More prosperous farming and fishing communities
7. A caring society without discrimination, through the realisation of participatory social security apparatus
8. Healthy environment, healthier people
9. Intellectual and cultural advancement, and revamping of the education system
10. Real gender equality for women's happiness:
 - a. Introducing real gender equality
 - b. Expanding women's participation and leadership in policy making process

¹ Excerpted from: <http://www.eparty.or.kr/english/Platforms.htm>



- c. Supporting women's economic activities and practicing employment equality
 - d. Respecting value of family and making family culture of both sexes equality
 - e. Preventing violence to women and making unified network to protect civil rights
 - f. Expanding women's participation in peaceful unification and international cooperation
11. Mutual prosperity for the two Koreas and peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula
 12. Establishment of a foundation for true self defense and a leading role in regional security regimes
 13. Diplomatic efforts for the enhancement of Korea's international standing and economic progress



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WOMEN OF KYRGYZSTAN - “NOVAYA SILA” (NEW FORCE)

Charter

In view of the performance of some goals and charter tasks having become outdated in some provisions of the previous Charter and also with taking into account today's reality, interests of most of party members, Democratic Party of Women of Kyrgyzstan - “Novaya Sila” (DPWK) proclaims new programme goals and tasks for period of transition and makes changes and inserts additions into actual Charter.

1. General Provisions

- 1.1 Democratic Party of Women of Kyrgyzstan - “Novaya Sila” acting on territory of Kyrgyz Republic, uniting on voluntary basis citizens of Kyrgyz Republic with the object of creation a constitutional state on basis of human values, principles of political and economical freedom, gender equality of rights, equality and principle of equal representing of sexes in all authorities and jurisdictions.
- 1.2 DPWK - “Novaya Sila” bases its activity on principles of self-government and equality of all members, voluntarism and publicity. Party is realises its activity under the Constitutions and Laws of Kyrgyz Republic on basis of its programme document and present Charter. DPWK - “Novaya Sila” assists with other public organisations and political parties in republic and abroad standing on platform of democratic reforms and defending citizen's interests, and also with legislative bodies and executive settings.
- 1.3 Full name of the party - Democratic Party of Women of Kyrgyzstan - “Novaya Sila”. Abbreviation - DPWK - “Novaya Sila”. Name in Kyrgyz language - “Kyrgyzstan Ayaldardyn Demokratyalyk patiyasy - Jany Kuch”. Party status - Republican.
- 1.4 DPWK - “Novaya Sila” is a juridical person, has its own symbolism, stamp, balance, seal and publishing organy.
- 1.5 Superior body of initial organisation is general meeting and for republic organisation - congress. Meeting of initial organisation is authorised in participation of more then a half members of initial organisation or selected delegates.



TOKTOKAN BOROMBAEVA'S PERSONAL MANIFESTO

What worries me:

1. Weak social protection of people;
2. Rapid increase in migration of population;
3. Disintegration of families and amplification of recession of morals;
4. Growth in the use of narcotics and increased alcoholism, corruption and the organised crime;
5. Low legal and political culture;
6. Decrease in birth rate;
7. Increase in infectious diseases;
8. Poverty of the population;
9. Irresponsibility of the state authorities for destiny of the country;
10. Absence of confidence in tomorrow; and
11. Indifference to destiny of youth on the part of the state and government.

Toktokan Borombaeva declared during her election campaign that her future programme will address current social policy. She shared that main points of her struggle will be the following:

1. Improvement of the legislation in interests of people of Kyrgyzstan;
2. Change of state's approach to human resources;
3. Transparency of the budget; gender budgeting;
4. Amplification of care of small cities and villages;
5. Increase in wages of teachers, doctors, pension to pensioners due to struggle against shadow economy;
6. Struggle against trafficking;
7. Protection of the rights of women and children;
8. Increase the responsibility of the state structures for solutions of problems, complaints and requests of citizens;
9. Increase role of local self-governance institutes;



10. The termination of privatisation of state and public objects and branches;
11. Public health care;
12. Protection of the rights of labour migrants; and
13. Overcoming poverty.



WOMEN'S CANDIDACY INITIATIVE (WCI) CANDIDATE ZAITUN MOHAMED KASIM'S MANIFESTO¹

1. To promote an awareness in all Malaysians, but especially women, of their rights and power in a democracy process of elections and parliamentary representation. To promote a minimum of 30% participation of women at all levels of political and policy-making processes.
2. To promote all causes of justice and democracy; and to incorporate the views, aspirations and participation of women in this process.
3. To work towards the abolition of the use of physical force or any form of violence in the family, within the community and by state institutions against all Malaysians but especially the most vulnerable - women and children - in any and all situations.
4. To work towards repealing laws which curtail the democratic rights of Malaysians, as well as revising all policies and laws which discriminate against or impact unfairly against women, including those of the Sharia Court system.
5. To work towards provisions that would ensure people are never forcefully evicted from their land or homes under any circumstances; and that alternative, quality housing and alternative land is provided to those who are deliberately relocated from their homes as a result of development for public interest.
6. To ensure that all development programmes are consultative and people-centered, and by "people" we mean all those who are directly affected by these development programmes.
7. To ensure that all decision - making and all business conducted by the government and its institutions are processes open to public scrutiny. To ensure also that the government and its institutions accept responsibility and are accountable for these decisions and their results. To ensure that local council elections are reinstated.
8. To ensure the just and equitable distribution of wealth of the nation so that it is not concentrated in the hands of a few but instead enjoyed by all

¹ WCI created its and Malaysia's history when it fielded the first independent women's candidate during the 10th General Elections in 1999.



Malaysians; to ensure also that women are involved in the process of decision-making in the distribution of national wealth and resources.

9. To ensure a safe, comfortable and quality standard of living for all, with the most vulnerable groups, especially single mothers, the elderly, children and the disabled in mind. To ensure that the basic social services needs of all are met.
10. To ensure that adequate and quality healthcare is available at reasonable cost to all Malaysians.



GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY'S PROGRAMME AND ACTION

Gabriela Women's Party is a sectoral party dedicated to promoting the rights and welfare of marginalised and under-represented Filipino women through participation in the country's electoral system and organs of governance. It is a sectoral party composed of women 18 years and above, having varied occupations, education, interests, ethnic origin, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation. The Gabriela Women's Party seeks to harness the potential, initiative, skills, and leadership of marginalised women towards empowerment, justice, and equality.

I. On Empowerment

1. To initiate, support and propose measures that would uplift the conditions of marginalised women in the economic, political, social and cultural fields.
2. To educate and organise marginalised women from various sectors towards actualising women's potential for leadership and action.
3. To tap the organised strength of marginalised women for action towards safeguarding national sovereignty and democracy as well as the people's welfare and well-being.
4. To work for a true land reform programme that recognises poor women's right to ownership of the land they till, ensure state provision for health, maternal and child care services for rural women as well as support for their technical skills, training and education.
5. To support campaigns for wage increase, improvement of maternity benefits, provision of child care services and elimination of sexual harassment in the workplace.
6. To push for the setting up and protection of local industries in order to generate employment and thus minimise the need for working women to leave their families and work abroad.
7. To initiate moves to stop labor-only contracting especially as it takes advantage of women's cheap labour and makes them vulnerable to abuse.
8. To encourage women's initiatives towards a sound and healthy environment, particularly against chemical and waste pollution, forest denudation and the depletion of marine and coral resources



II. On Justice

1. To initiate, encourage, or fight for measures that would strengthen
2. action particularly as regards sexual violence such as rape, prostitution, sex trafficking, pornography, wife battery, incest, etc.
3. To fight human rights violations against women in all its forms and conduct information and education campaigns to protect women from violence, abuse, humiliation, degradation and exploitation.
4. To urge a total stop to illegal recruitment and sex trafficking of women in the guise of employment or marriage.
5. To work for the freedom of all political prisoners, especially pregnant women, nursing mothers, the sick, the infirmed, heads of families or main breadwinners.
6. To facilitate legal assistance, crisis intervention and just compensation to women who are victims of violence, poverty, and environmental degradation.
7. To campaign for the right to health care and the free exercise by women of reproductive choices and the provision of services that will make this a reality.
8. To demand stricter sanctions and punishment for perpetrators of child prostitution, child labour and other forms of child abuse.

III. On Equality

1. To support and promote initiatives aimed at preventing unjust and discriminatory practices against Filipino women that deter their full development as persons.
2. To monitor the compliance and implementation by government of international statutes on equality and against the discrimination of women, to which it is a signatory.
3. To promote the equality of men and women not only before the law but in various professions, in the workplace and in the home.
4. To defend the right of lesbians and gays against discrimination.
5. To raise the consciousness not only of women, but also of men, on gender issues and gender-sensitivity.

COPYRIGHT © 2004 GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY



ANNEX 3: THE PHILIPPINES

A: Declaration of principles

B: Party List Legislation



A: DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Declaration of Principles

1. Women have the right to a society where all forms of discrimination and violence against women have been banished;
2. Women have the right equal to men to the land they work on; as well as the right to full and gainful employment and living wages;
3. Women have the right to participate freely in all aspects of political debates, action and decision-making processes in the family, the community and the nation at large; as well as the right to fair and non-sexist representation in all social, political, economic and cultural spheres;
4. Women have the right to basic health care and services for all, especially reproductive and maternal health care;
5. Women have the right to a marriage founded on mutual consent and respect, with equality and dignity, and to adequate support for the rearing and caring of children;
6. Women have the right to fight for children's basic needs like proper care, nutrition, health, safety and play; protection from abuse and exploitation; access to a national, scientific and mass education which is non-sexist as well;
7. Women have the right to advocate for lesbian and gay rights and to insist that society not discriminate on the basis of sexual preference;
8. Women have the right to assert and protect their country's sovereignty and national patrimony;
9. Women have the right to a foreign policy that is independent and beneficial to our economy and security as a nation; and
10. Women have the right to a government that is truly democratic and representative of the majority.



B: PARTY LIST LEGISLATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

www.congress.gov.ph

LAWNUM: RA07941
DATE : 03/03/95
TITLE : AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARTY-LIST
REPRESENTATIVES
THROUGH THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

TEXT :

H. No. 3043

S. No. 1913

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila

Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of
July,
nineteen hundred and ninety-four.

[REPUBLIC ACT No. 07941]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF
PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE
PARTY-LIST SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the
"Party-List System Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall promote
proportional representation in the election of
representatives to the House of Representatives through a
party-list system of registered national, regional and
sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions thereof,
which will enable Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized
and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties, and
who lack well-defined political constituencies but who could
contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate
legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole, to
become members of the House of Representatives. Towards this
end, the State shall develop and guarantee a full, free and
open party system in order to attain the broadest possible



representation of party, sectoral or group interests in the House of Representatives by enhancing their chances to compete for and win seats in the legislature, and shall provide the simplest scheme possible.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - (a) The party-list system is a mechanism of proportional representation in the election of representatives to the House of Representatives from national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions thereof registered with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Component parties or organizations of a coalition may participate independently provided the coalition of which they form part does not participate in the party-list system.

(b) A party means either a political party or a sectoral party or a coalition of parties.

(c) A political party refers to an organized group of citizens advocating an ideology or platform, principles and policies for the general conduct of government and which, as the most immediate means of securing their adoption, regularly nominates and supports certain of its leaders and members as candidates for public office.

It is a national party when its constituency is spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the regions. It is a regional party when its constituency is spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the cities and provinces comprising the region.

(d) A sectoral party refers to an organized group of citizens belonging to any of the sectors enumerated in Section 5 hereof whose principal advocacy pertains to the special interest and concerns of their sector.

(e) A sectoral organization refers to a group of citizens or a coalition of groups of citizens who share similar physical attributes or characteristics, employment, interests or concerns.

(f) A coalition refers to an aggrupation of duly registered national, regional, sectoral parties or organizations for political and/or election purposes.

SEC. 4. Manifestation to Participate in the Party-List System. -Any party, organization, or coalition already registered with the Commission need not register anew. However, such party, organization, or coalition shall file with the Commission, not later than ninety (90) days before the election, a manifestation of its desire to participate in the party-list system.

SEC. 5. Registration. - Any organized group of persons may



register as a party, organization or coalition for purposes of the party-list system by filing with the COMELEC not later than ninety (90) days before the election a petition verified by its president or secretary stating its desire to participate in the party-list system as a national, regional or sectoral party or organization or a coalition of such parties or organizations, attaching thereto its constitution, by-laws, platform or program of government, list of officers, coalition agreement and other relevant information as the COMELEC may require: Provided, That the sectors shall include labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers, and professionals.

The COMELEC shall publish the petition in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

The COMELEC shall, after due notice and hearing, resolve the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date it was submitted for decision but in no case not later than sixty (60) days before election.

SEC. 6. Refusal and/or Cancellation of Registration. - The COMELEC may, motu proprio or upon verified complaint of any interested party, refuse or cancel, after due notice and hearing, the registration of any national, regional or sectoral party, organization or coalition on any of the following grounds:

(1) It is a religious sect or denomination, organization or association organized for religious purposes;

(2) It advocates violence or unlawful means to seek its goal;

(3) It is a foreign party or organization;

(4) It is receiving support from any foreign government, foreign political party, foundation, organization, whether directly or through any of its officers or members or indirectly through third parties for partisan election purposes;

(5) It violates or fails to comply with laws, rules or regulations relating to elections;

(6) It declares untruthful statements in its petition;

(7) It has ceased to exist for at least one (1) year; or

(8) It fails to participate in the last two (2) preceding elections or fails to obtain at least two percentum (2%) of the votes cast under the party-list system in the two (2) preceding elections for the constituency in which it has



registered.

SEC. 7. Certified List of Registered Parties. - The COMELEC shall, not later than sixty (60) days before election, prepare a certified list of national, regional, or sectoral parties, organizations or coalitions which have applied or who have manifested their desire to participate under the party-list system and distribute copies thereof to all precincts for posting in the polling places on election day. The names of the party-list nominees shall not be shown on the certified list.

SEC. 8. Nomination of Party-List Representatives. - Each registered party, organization or coalition shall submit to the COMELEC not later than forty-five (45) days before the election a list of names, not less than five (5), from which party-list representatives shall be chosen in case it obtains the required number of votes.

A person may be nominated in one (1) list only. Only persons who have given their consent in writing may be named in the list. The list shall not include any candidate for any elective office or a person who has lost his bid for an elective office in the immediately preceding election. No change of names or alteration of the order of nominees shall be allowed after the same shall have been submitted to the COMELEC except in cases where the nominee dies, or withdraws in writing his nomination, becomes incapacitated in which case the name of the substitute nominee shall be placed last in the list. Incumbent sectoral representatives in the House of Representatives who are nominated in the party-list system shall not be considered resigned.

SEC. 9. Qualifications of Party-List Nominees. - No person shall be nominated as party-list representative unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter, a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election, able to read and write, a bona fide member of the party or organization which he seeks to represent for at least ninety (90) days preceding the day of the election, and is at least twenty-five (25) years of age on the day of the election.

In case of a nominee of the youth sector, he must at least be twenty-five (25) but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of the election. Any youth sectoral representative who attains the age of thirty (30) during his term shall be allowed to continue in office until the expiration of his term.

SEC. 10. Manner of Voting. - Every voter shall be entitled to two (2) votes: the first is a vote for candidate for member of the House of Representatives in his legislative



district, and the second, a vote for the party, organization, or coalition he wants represented in the House of Representatives: Provided, That a vote cast for a party, sectoral organization, or coalition not entitled to be voted for shall not be counted: Provided, finally, That the first election under the party-list system shall be held in May 1998.

The COMELEC shall undertake the necessary information campaign for purposes of educating the electorate on the matter of the party-list system.

SEC. 11. Number of Party-List Representatives. - The party-list representatives shall constitute twenty percentum (20%) of the total number of the members of the House of Representatives including those under the party-list.

For purposes of the May 1998 elections, the first five (5) major political parties on the basis of party representation in the House of Representatives at the start of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines shall not be entitled to participate in the party-list system.

In determining the allocation of seats for the second vote, the following procedure shall be observed:

(a) The parties, organizations, and coalitions shall be ranked from the highest to the lowest based on the number of votes they garnered during the elections.

(b) The parties, organizations, and coalitions receiving at least two percent (2%) of the total votes cast for the party-list system shall be entitled to one seat each: Provided, That those garnering more than two percent (2%) of the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes: Provided, finally, That each party, organization, or coalition shall be entitled to not more than three (3) seats.

SEC. 12. Procedure in Allocating Seats for Party-List Representatives. - The COMELEC shall tally all the votes for the parties, organizations, or coalitions on a nationwide basis, rank them according to the number of votes received and allocate party-list representatives proportionately according to the percentage of votes obtained by each party, organization, or coalition as against the total nationwide votes cast for the party-list system.

SEC. 13. How Party-List Representatives are Chosen. - Party-list representatives shall be proclaimed by the COMELEC based on the list of names submitted by the respective parties, organizations, or coalitions to the COMELEC according to their ranking in said list.



SEC. 14. Term of Office. - Party-list representatives shall be elected for a term of three (3) years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election, No party-list representatives shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.

SEC. 15. Change of Affiliation; Effect. - Any elected party-list representative who changes his political party or sectoral affiliation during his term of office shall forfeit his seat: Provided, That if he changes his political party or sectoral affiliation within six (6) months before an election, he shall not be eligible for nomination as party-list representative under his new party or organization.

SEC. 16. Vacancy. - In case of vacancy in the seats reserved for party-list representatives, the vacancy shall be automatically filled by the next representative from the list of nominees in the order submitted to the COMELEC by the same party, organization, or coalition, who shall serve for the unexpired term. If the list is exhausted, the party, organization, or coalition concerned shall submit additional nominees.

SEC. 17. Rights of Party-List Representatives. - Party-list representatives shall be entitled to the same salaries and emoluments as regular members of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 18. Rules and Regulations. - The COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 19. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be provided in the regular appropriations for the Commission on Elections starting fiscal year 1996 under the General Appropriations Act.

Starting 1995, the COMELEC is hereby authorized to utilize savings and other available funds for purposes of its information campaign on the party-list system.

SEC. 20. Separability Clause. - If any part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 21. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.



SEC. 22. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

EDGARDO J. ANGARA
President of the Senate

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This Act, which is a consolidation of House Bill No. 3043 and Senate Bill No. 1913, was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 28, 1995.

EDGARDO E. TUMANGAN
Secretary of the Senate

CAMILO L. SABIO
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved: March 3, 1995

FIDEL V. RAMOS
President of the Philippines

