

The Wrong Things

Duterte's admin has produced two aborted drafts for a new constitution, essentially these are PDPL-Puno-Bayanihan and HouseRes15-GMA. Duterte was unusually silent about the Veloso proposal sanctioned by Gloria for lower house adoption in late 2018. The new Congressional leadership had seen the revisionary initiative of the executive branch go nowhere since the start of Duterte's term in 2016 so they produced a last-ditch effort to save it and for the first time the constitutional revision cause had made it to first base. One more hurdle to go and then a plebiscite will follow once Duterte bullies the courts of law and public opinion into quashing the expected constitutional objections raised to preserve a 34-year old constitution designed to never change.

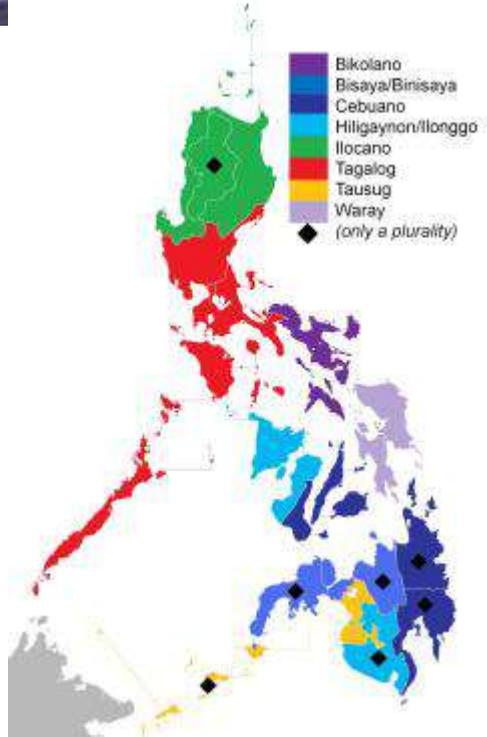
And then in early 2019 Duterte proclaimed without explanation that changing the constitution was no longer a possibility at which point I thought that with the retirement of Gloria, Duterte is not wrong about the prospect for the demise of Cory's unbreakable 1987 Constitution. Change is, as the gang of Drilon in the senate keeps saying, dead in the water.

The harshest criticism I can make of the Gloria constitution draft is that it is not much of a federal or even decentralized constitution. However it is an open-ended new constitution that explicitly tasks future representatives of the people to build the proper federal structure. It is not a document imbued with nationalism and other nonsense, it does not even mention anything about national language and associated shit. Unlike the Bayanihan draft, it wasn't crafted with the intention of making the "good" elements of the Cory Aquino Constitution its core. Back in 1986 I was very perplexed why the commissioners were making the political alterations dictated by Marcos their core for the constitution they were commissioned to write.

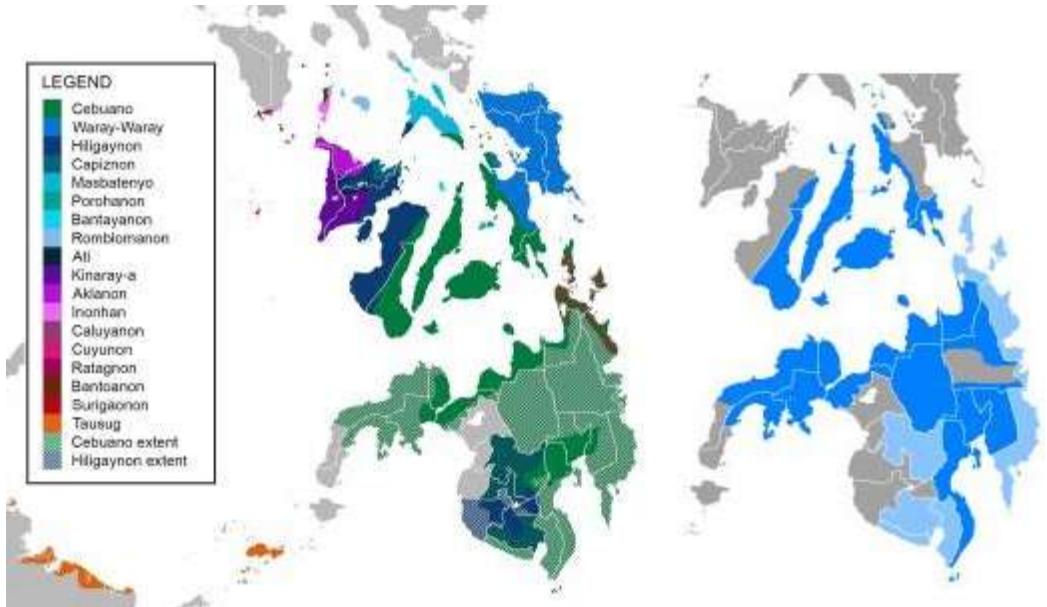
The Correct Movement is by far the most active online group for decentralized political change. Their biggest deviation from the Bayanihan/PDP-Laban model is federal-parliamentary for the system and form of government, otherwise, other than minor points on foreign investment, they converge. Let's start with geography.



You'll see four maps in all. One, the Pimentel specification, was obtained recently from somewhere in the Correct FB forum. The rest are from sources of which I have no immediate recollection. This next one looks like it was the basis used by Pimentel. Anyone knowledgeable about Philippine languages can tell you though that it is wrong outright.



By the magic of extrapolation do you get a supersized Tagalog area and then Northern Luzon and Bicol overcoverage. There are no Bicolanos in Masbate and the Pampanga provinces are most certainly not Tagalog but Pimentel took this for granted to be the case. Cebuano meantime was magically reduced as you can glean from the two more or less demographically accurate separate linguistic maps of Visayas Mindanao below.



Is it not a purpose of federalist reorganization to grant political unity to the Cebuanos who comprise the largest natural culture segment in the history and prehistory of our country? You can say that the Gloria constitution does not give you a federal model but you can also say that it does not permanently bind you in iron shackles to the wrong model. Mistakes can be undone so even if the ridiculously faulty Pimentel division disastrously came into reality, it would still be far better than forever no change. Only with Gloria would correction have been permitted.

It does not matter today and in the next two years if someone touts the perfect draft for a new consti or if it is yet another lousy clone of Cory-Marcos decorated with federal something. I have no reason to believe

Duterte was lying or bluffing when he abandoned constitution change just as he has conceded on the entrenched permanence of corruption and inefficiency in the government's way of life. Duterte and his putative dynasty is a dead end. Refresh your memory and look up his words before and after the 2019 election or vote buying fiesta. The time between now and 2022 has already been wasted, change has to come another way.

Bayanihan draft with commentary

dila.ph/Draft_Constitution_2018.pdf 3.6 mB

HouseRes15 *dila.ph/Resolution-of-Both-Houses-Proposing-the-Revision-of-the-1987-Constitution.pdf*
7.2 mB

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