

FAST FACTS ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Leadership

- House Officers
 - Speaker- Prospero Castillo Nograles: This is Nograles' second SONA as Speaker, following De Venecia who was Speaker since 2001- 2008.
 - Deputy Speakers
 - Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentabella
 - Rep. Raul V. Del Mar
 - Rep. Simeon A. Datumanong
 - Rep. Eric D. Singson
 - Rep. Ma Amelita C. Villarosa
 - Rep. Pablo P. Garcia
 - Majority Leader- Rep. Arthur D. Defensor Sr.
 - Minority Leader- Rep. Ronaldo B. Zamora
- The Lower House has 58 standing committees and 12 special committees
- With 125 members, Appropriations is the largest committee in the House
- Muslim Affairs and The Welfare of Children are the smallest, both with 20 members

Rep. Matias Defensor (Quezon City 3rd District), a known ally of the President, is the head of the Justice committee which hears impeachment complaints.

Joey de Venecia III, together with Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, Black and White Movement, Karapatan and Bayan Muna, filed an impeachment complaint against President Arroyo on October 13, 2008.

In the plenary voting on December 3, 2008, the House of Representatives (voting 183-21 with 3 abstentions), rejected the complaint citing insufficiency in substance. Committee Report 1551 also cited the junking of 3 other complaints

Party Membership

- The newly-merged Lakas-Kampi CMD is the dominant political party in the House of Representatives with a membership of 140, followed by NPC (26) and Liberal Party (18).

The Nacionalista Party has nine members in the House; the LDP has four while the PMP and PDP-Laban each has three members.

The rest are either independent or from other national and local parties.

- President Arroyo is a founding member of Kampi in the 1998 presidential elections. In the 2004 elections she ran and won for Lakas, where she is honorary chair. She is currently the national chair of Lakas-Kampi CMD. (QS, OP)
- Jose de Venecia filed on July 21, 2009 at the Comelec a petition to nullify the merger of Kampi and Lakas-CMD. De Venecia was formerly the head of Lakas-CMD.

House of Representatives... (cont'd)

- A representative's term is three years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms
 - The House of Representative currently has 265 members
 - 216 members are district representatives while 49 are party-list/sectoral representatives
 - 145 are first termers, 53 are second termers, and 67 are on their last term
 - 211 are male and 54 are female

New Party List Groups

April 21, 2009: The Supreme Court determined that there should be 55 party-list representatives from 36 winning organizations in the 2007 elections. Comelec subsequently issued a resolution listing 51 seats from 32 winning party lists. The recomputation took into account the SC ruling but set aside the votes garnered by the disqualified FPJPM. BATAS (entitled to 2 seats) and ALIF (entitled to 1 seat) meanwhile had pending cases before the commission. (COMELEC)

- 16 groups already have representatives in the House since the opening of the 14th Congress.
- 12 of the 16 got one additional seat: A Teacher, ABONO, AGAP, AKBAYAN, AMIN, AN WARAY, ANAKPAWIS, ARC, BAYAN MUNA, BUTIL, COOP-NATCCO and YACAP.
- 16 new groups joined the House, with barely a year left into their terms.
- 15 are allotted one seat each: 1-UTAK, ABA-AKO, ABAKADA, ABS, ANAD, ANG KASANGGA, AT, BANAT, BANTAY, KABATAAN, KAKUSA, SENIOR CITIZENS, TUCP, UNI-MAD and VFP.
- While 51 seats have been allocated, only 49 party-list representatives have taken office. The two seats allocated for Alagad have yet to be filled.
- Retired Army General Jovito Palparan (BANTAY), an alleged human rights violator linked to killings and disappearances of left-wing activists, was one of the 25 new representatives.

Arroyos in the House

- **Rep. Diosdado Macapagal Arroyo**, son of President Arroyo
 - Camarines Sur, 1st District, Lakas-Kampi CMD; first term
 - Vice Chair of 3 House committees (Agriculture and Food, Bicol and Economic Development, Youth and Sports Development) and member of 9 House committees
- **Rep. Mikey Macapagal Arroyo**, son of President Arroyo
 - Pampanga, 2nd District, Lakas-Kampi CMD; second term
 - chair, House Committee on Energy; member of 9 House committees
- **Rep. Iggy T. Arroyo**, brother-in-law of President Arroyo/ brother of FG
 - Negros Occidental, 5th District, Lakas-Kampi CMD; second term
 - chair, House Committee on Natural Resources; vice chair, House Committee on Government Reorganization; member of 8 House committees
- **Party-List Rep. Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo**, sister-in-law of President Arroyo/ sister of FG
 - Party-List, ANG KASANGGA; first term
 - KASANGGA, an organization of small entrepreneurs, is one of the 16 new party list groups that joined the House after the new SC ruling this year.



House of Representatives... (cont'd)

Political Families

Almost three-fourths of the Lower House members belong to political families, and have at least one elected relative (former or incumbent official) or a relative who holds a major appoint position.

- 68 per cent (180 out of 265) - or 7 out of 10 - of the representatives are members of political families.
- Only 32 per cent (85 out of 265) are not affiliated with any political families.

Deaths

Five congressmen have died since the start of the 14th congress.

- Crispin Beltran (AnakPawis Party list) - accident
- Wahab M. Akbar (Basilan) – killed in the October 2007 Batasan blast
- Victor Dominguez (Mt. Province) – heart attack
- Danilo Lagbas (Misamis Oriental) - cancer
- Guillermo Cua (COOP-NATCO Party list) – cancer

Charter Change

HR 1109

- HR 1109 calls for the convening of both the Senate and the House of Representative and by virtue of a two-third majority vote pave the way for constitutional amendments.
- 122 out of 171 representatives who authored/co-authored House Resolution 1109 are from Lakas-Kampi CMD. House Speaker Nograles authored the resolution. This number excludes Representatives Prieto-Teodoro and Villafuerte, who later withdrew support on the bill.
- NPC, LP, and NP threatened to withdraw support for HR 1109 if House pushes for charter change without the Senate.

HR 737

- House Resolution 737, also proposed by Speaker Nograles, pushes for amending only the economic provision of the Philippine Constitution.
- 160 congressmen supported the resolution, 112 of whom are from Lakas-Kampi CMD.

Sources: Congress website, NP, Lakas-KAMPI CMD, Liberal Party, Nationalist People's Coalition, Offices of the Representatives, news reports