Federal Republic or Dynastic Federalism? 
Imperatives of Political and Electoral Reforms in the Draft Federal Constitution of the Philippines

Abstract
The Consultative Committee to Review the 1987 Constitution (ConCom) convened by President Rodrigo Duterte in early 2018 completed a draft federal constitution premised on the implementation of extensive political and electoral reforms as major pre-requisites to a shift to federalism. These reforms include: (1) the need to regulate the number of political dynasties; (2) the need to institutionalize a package of political party reforms that include campaign finance reform, subsidy to political parties, a ban on party switching, and strengthening citizen parties linkages; and (3) the need to strengthen a mixed-electoral system in the House of Representatives. Without these important reforms, a shift to federalism might prove to be disastrous for the country with the regions becoming fiefdom of local political clans and dynasties. Recently, the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments released its own draft federal constitution, co-authored by former president and current Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The House draft constitution has not only expunged all of the ConCom’s proposed reforms, it has removed the anti-political dynasty provision and term limits for local and nationally elected officials already enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. With the 2019 midterm and 2022 presidential elections in the horizon, it is apparent that the country’s political elite cannot rise above their self-serving, narrow, and partisan interests for the good of the Filipino nation.