

Atong Paglaum, Inc., v. Commission on Elections: Too Much Choice?

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This Comment discusses COMELEC Resolution No. 9366, the Party-List System in the 2013 Mid-Term Elections, and comments on the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Atong Paglaum Inc., v. COMELEC*. The Author focuses on the Court's decision regarding whether the criteria for participating in the party-list system laid down in *Ang Bagong Bayani v. COMELEC* and *BANAT v. COMELEC* should be applied by the Commission on Elections in the May 2013 party-list elections. The Court issued guidelines that were meant to help the COMELEC determine who may participate in the party-list elections from 2013 onwards which broadened COMELEC Resolution No. 9366's criteria for inclusion in the elections.

The Author opines that the decision by the Supreme Court leads to a radical paradigm shift in the party-list system by potentially allowing major political parties to participate in the system which the Author claims goes against previous jurisprudence and interpretations of the law. Moreover, instead of clarifying the necessary requirements for party-list members and their nominees, the Author believes that the Court's decisions served to bring more questions than answers and calls for an end to the 25-year experiment that has been the party-list system.