

## Prime Minister Under the New Republic: A Philippine Experiment on Parliamentarism

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Undeniably, the Philippines, as a nation, boasts of a rich historical background. Consequently, having been ruled by three foreign forces, colonization produced a people who had a knack of experimenting with different types of governmental structures until it finds that which would best suit its context. The plebiscite on the proposed constitutional amendments on April 7, 1981 was one of those experiments. There, the existing parliamentary form of government was modified, which primarily resulted in radical changes concerning the allocations of government powers and functions.

The Author, in this Comment, would examine the change brought about by such a plebiscite on the existing government structure. To simplify the discussion, the analysis would center on the role of the Prime Minister in each governmental set-up. Hence, the significance of the Prime Minister's position is viewed *vis-à-vis* the 1973 Constitution, the National Assembly and the 1981 Constitutional Amendments. His role as Chief Legislator is also analyzed. In conclusion, the Author presents a question that goes into the very reason of existence of the Prime Minister amidst changing governmental contexts.