

Bringing Home Bad Bacon: Unconstitutionality of the Pork Barrel System

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On 19 November 2013, the Supreme Court (SC) declared the Priority Assistance Fund (PDAF), also known as the pork barrel as unconstitutional. The SC voted 14-0-1 against the PDAF, the multimillion peso discretionary fund received by lawmakers every year.

The PDAF has created a facet which legislators can abuse and use public funds for their personal gain. This alleged misuse by legislators of the PDAF funds resulted to the increase mistrust of the citizens towards the government as well as alert the Court of the actual controversy needing immediate attention.

This Essay looks into the decision and reasoning of the Court in declaring the PDAF article as unconstitutional. There are several constitutional issues that were violated by the Congressional Pork Barrel considering that the pork barrel system gave too much power to the members of Congress, and gave an outlet which is very susceptible to abuse and corruption, as the recent events have proven.

Also, this Essay will discuss the ruling on the Court on partly nullifying the provision of the Presidential Pork Barrel which violates the non-delegation of legislative power.

The emphasis of this Essay will be on the constitutional issues and the violation of public trust committed by several members of Congress in abusing the Pork Barrel System. The Author concluded that the Pork Barrel System is an innovative system which could have increase the productivity of the government but ended up leading it to its own demise.