

## The Human Rights Impact of Charter Change Proposals

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*SUBJECT(S): IMPACT OF CHARTER CHANGE PROPOSAL TO HUMAN RIGHTS*

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This Comment opens with the proposal of the administration of the then-President Joseph Estrada and other sectors of the society that certain provisions of the 1987 Constitution be amended in two areas, as follows: (1) Political Reform, which includes a shift to a parliamentary type of government, federalism, increase in the number of senators, extension of terms of office, and package-deal election of the president and the vice-president; and (2) Economic Reform, which includes allowing foreigners to own lands in the Philippines, allowing foreigners in certain areas of investment reserved for Filipinos, and allowing the Supreme Court to decide economic issues.

The Comment examines the effects and impact of these proposals to the basic human rights of Filipinos, particularly, the intended beneficiaries of the said proposals — the farmers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, and the like. It also looks into how, contrary to the envisioned benefits, the charter change proposals might have adverse effects on the rights of the Filipinos.