

## The Three-Term Limit Rule in Review and the Confusion Between Term and Tenure

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The Philippine Constitution provides that the Philippines is a democratic and republican state. As such, all the powers of the State reside in the people. In turn, people delegate these powers to a selected few to run the government. For this reason, a public office is essentially a public agency created in the interest and for the benefit of the people. Public office is neither a contract nor a right. It is a responsibility whereby an individual is charged with certain duties pertinent to sovereignty, and the powers delegated are held in trust for the people. Thus, safeguards were enshrined in the Constitution to protect the people against a public officer's prolonged stay in public office.

The Comment examines the three-term limit rule enshrined in the 1987 Constitution vis-à-vis jurisprudential response, which has raised the doctrine to a very complex level. By reviewing Supreme Court decisions on the three-term limit rule, the Comment concludes that a simpler view to understand the intricacies of the three-term limit rule is the better view. To this end, the Author emphasizes that the term limit rule provides an assurance that new blood is infused into the political landscape. In effect, the voting public will have a wider choice from whom they would elect leaders that will run the government. The rule is a principle envisioned as a philosophical framework aimed at insuring a progressive government.