



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Intramuros, Manila

SECOND DIVISION

IN RE: PETITION FOR REGISTRATION
OF "BUKLOD" AS A POLITICAL PARTY,

BUKLOD,

Petitioner.

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SPP NO.-09-117 (PP)

Promulgated:

NOV. 12 2009

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RESOLUTION

A political party refers to an organized group of citizens advocating an ideology or platform, principles and policies for the general conduct of government and which, as the most immediate means of securing their adoption, regularly nominate and support certain of its leaders and members as candidates for public office.¹

In the petition filed on August 8, 2009 by its representative, Central Committee Chairman Benjamin R. Punongbayan, BUKLOD sought for accreditation and registration as a political party.²

Thus, it was directed to cause the publication of its petition as well as the August 27, 2009 Order setting the case for hearing on September 10, 2009³ in three (3) newspapers of general circulation. In compliance therewith, both the petition and the Order aforesaid were published in the

¹ Sec. 7, Article IX (c) of the Constitution.

² Records, pp. 1-4.

³ Records, p.99.

Malaya,⁴ The Daily Tribune⁵ and Manila Standard Today⁶ in their September 7, 2009 issues respectively. The Commission in its Order dated August 17, 2009⁷ also directed the Regional Directors of Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII IX, X, XI, XII, XIII (CARAGA), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the National Capital Region (NCR) to verify the existence of said organization.

On the date of the hearing, Chairman Benjamin R. Punongbayan of BUKLOD appeared and testified. He answered the clarificatory questions propounded by the members of the Commission with regard to the legitimacy of its existence, the qualifications of its officers and members and of the organization's financial capacity to launch and sustain nationwide programs and activities. Mr. Punongbayan likewise testified on BUKLOD's Platform of Government, its objectives, proposed legislation and overall plan for development. He submitted the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of the persons manning the regional offices and chapters of BUKLOD in nine (9) regions from its National Headquarters, to the NCR and to Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and XVI (MIMAROPA).

In support of the petition and to establish the jurisdiction of the Commission, the following authenticated documents were marked and submitted in evidence, to wit:

- Exh. "A" - Comelec Order dated August 27, 2009;
- Exh. "B" - September 7, 2009 issue of Malaya;
- Exh. "B-1" - Publication of Order and Petition;
- Exh. "B-2" - Malaya Affidavit;

⁴Records, p. 109.

⁵Records, p. 112.

⁶Records, pp. 122-124.

⁷Records, p.97.

- Exh. "C" - September 7, 2009 issue of The Daily
Tribune;
- Exh. "C-1" - Publication of Order and Petition;
- Exh. "C-2" - Affidavit of The Daily Tribune;
- Exh. "D" - September 7, 2009 issue of Manila
Standard Today;
- Exh. "D-1" - Publication of Order and Petition;
- Exh. "D-2" - Affidavit of Manila Standard Today;
- Exh. "E" - BUKLOD's Petition for Registration;
- Exh. "F" - Constitution and By-Laws;
- Exh. "F-1" - BUKLOD Logo;
- Exh. "F-2" - BUKLOD Flag;
- Exh. "F-3" - Oath of Membership;
- Exh. "G" - Platform of Government;
- Exh. "H" - Founding Statement;
- Exh. "I" - Application for Membership;
- Exh. "J" - National Headquarters and Regional
Offices;
- Exh. "K" - List of Members as of July 29, 2009;
- Exh. "K-1" - List of Members from July 29, 2009 to
September 8, 2009;
- Exh. "L" - Metrobank Certificate of Deposit;
- Exh. "M" - Membership Identification Card;

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- Exh. "N" - BUKLOD Flyer;
- Exh. "O" - SEC Certificate of Incorporation;
- Exh. "O-1" - BUKLOD Natin, Inc. Articles of
Incorporation;
- Exh. "O-2" - By-Laws.

Consequently, the petition was submitted for resolution.

We now resolve.

Article IX Section 2 par. 5 of the 1987 Constitution expressly provides that the Commission on Elections shall have the power to:

"(5) Register, after sufficient publication, political parties, organization, or coalitions which, in addition to other requirements, must present their platform or program of government; and accredit citizen's arms of the Commission on Elections. Religious denomination and sects shall not be registered. Those which seek to achieve their goals through violence or unlawful means, or refuse to uphold and adhere to this Constitution, or which are supported by any foreign government shall likewise be refused registration.

xxx xxx xxx."

With the grant of this authority, the Commission is bound to scrutinize and rigidly screen applicants for registration of political parties pursuant to Rule 32 of the COMELEC Rules of Procedure.

After evaluating the testimonial and documentary evidence, we are convinced that the petitioner has sufficiently shown that it is qualified to be registered as a political party. It has complied with all the procedural and substantial requirements needed for its registration and accreditation as a political party.

Evidence discloses that petitioner filed a verified petition attaching thereto its Constitution and By-Laws, Program of Government, Founding Statement, List of Officers, Current List of Members, Logo and Flag and Bank Certificate from Metropolitan Bank confirming a deposit in the amount of more than P2 Million as of July 29, 2009 under the name of petitioner.

As gleaned from the records and from the testimony of its founder and Chairman, BUKLOD is an active political organization whose members are bound by their advocacy to foster strong love of country and unity among all its people regardless of ethnic background, economic standing, or religious belief; to provide fairness and justice to all and promote and provide equal distribution of wealth to all citizens by giving them equal opportunities to succeed in life and enjoy the happiness that each Filipino truly deserves; to use the country's strength to become a leader among the nations of the world and to effectively and adequately protect the country's national interests and the welfare of the people.


Having shown the legitimacy of its existence, the Commission is likewise convinced that BUKLOD is not a religious sect or denomination, nor an adjunct of, or a project organized or an entity funded or assisted by the government. It has sufficiently shown its independence and has proven that it does not receive funding from the local and foreign government or any of its instrumentalities. It has also proven that apart from having funds and resources to sustain its own programs and

activities, it, too, has sufficient resources to launch and sustain a campaign to further its platform of government.

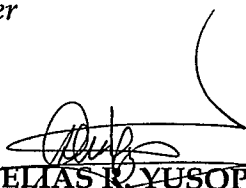
Moreover, absence of any opposition to the filing of this petition shows that BUKLOD has not pursued its vision and mission in a manner that is contrary to law. Unquestionably, petitioner is a legitimate organized group of persons pursuing the same political ideals in government including its branches and divisions.⁸

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, the petition is **GRANTED**. Accordingly, the registration of **BUKLOD** as a political party is hereby **APPROVED**.

SO ORDERED.

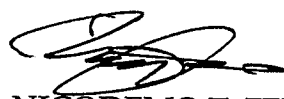

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Presiding Commissioner


LUCENITO N. TAGLE
Commissioner


ELIAS R. YUSOPH
Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the conclusions in the foregoing resolution were reached in consultation with the other members of the Commission before the same was assigned to the writer of the opinion for the Commission (Second Division).


NICODEMO T. FERRER
Presiding Commissioner

⁸ Lagasca vs de Vera, G.R. No. L-1649, Oct. 29, 1947