



The  
**ELECTORAL**  
**INTROSPECTION**

A TECHNOSCOPE PUBLICATIONS' ELECTIONS SPECIALS

The Technoscope Publications' virtual magazine-journal

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# Editor's Note

8th of May, 2022

Dear Readers,

Tomorrow, the will of the people will once again be heard through our democratic institutions. Noting that democracy demands education and information as its guardian within a contemporary world – the Technoscope Publications proudly offers this special issue in relation to the upcoming 2022 national and local elections.

 presents itself as an interactive virtual magazine with special emphasis on pertinent historical information, socio-political literature, and imperative political issues that plague Philippine society.

This is our attempt at doing our part in seizing the collective dream of a fully informed and educated Philippines, thrusting itself towards a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

This upcoming election, we wish not to tyrannically dictate your sacred vote, but to ensure we all vote intelligently and within our conscience.



Adnes Jay Estrada  
Editor-In-Chief

The Technoscope Publications

# Editorial

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# LIFE, DEATH, AND ENERGY: Philippine's battle against Climate Change

As the world slowly shifts toward renewable energy, we still undoubtedly revolve around fossil fuels being 80% of our total energy source; stubbornly insisting to live on its prime decades after the Industrial Revolution. Consider that in 1800, 81% of the world's population lived in poverty; after 190 years, only 44% of people lived in poverty. Now, less than 10% of the global population lives under the poverty line – to which the world owes to the industrial revolution driven by fossil fuels.

Despite that, fossil fuels still degrade our land, pollute our waters, toxify the air, and contribute the most towards the rise in our global temperature. Globally, fossil fuel pollution is responsible for one in five deaths. Researchers also estimate global economic losses from fossil fuel air pollution at \$2.9 trillion each year, three years of which could end world hunger.

Embedded in the system and government policies, environmental issues can only truly be solved through rectification of the same.

One of the ways we can indirectly combat the environmental crisis is by applying pragmatic solutions in liberalizing the economy – incentivizing more innovators to develop modern technologies that help the environment despite being fueled with self-interest. Alhajih Seraj Bah, a young entrepreneur from Sierra Leone, is currently preserving forests by recycling worldwide waste. He dreamt of being wealthy, and through the use of coconut shells as briquettes, his dream has become a reality. Stories like this show the importance of the private industry in the collaborative effort toward a greener society, to which our government could incentivize and fund through research and development. These policies are much akin to natural human selfishness rather than a simplistic “anti-fossil” only approach.

Another modern way toward a cleaner environment is the rehabilitation of the discontinued Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Ac-

ording to director Carlo Arcilla of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, the Power Plant can still operate and is actually 60% younger compared to 98 nuclear plants in America. Experts say that by embracing nuclear energy, the Philippines could both lower its carbon emissions and secure a stable supply of abundant electricity. According to the International Energy Agency, the use of nuclear power has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by more than 60 gigatonnes over the past 50 years, which is almost two years' worth of global energy-related emissions. With this, the government should provide funding to reopen the project and de-politicize the nuclear plant, cleansing our energy source, boosting the economy, and stepping towards a greener Philippines.

An intelligent transition to renewable energy is undeniably vital in this battle as generating energy that produces no greenhouse gas emissions, diversifying energy supply and reducing dependence on imported fuels, creating economic development and jobs in manufacturing, installation, and much more are through renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, wind, biomass, and hydropower.

At present, thirty nations around the world use renewable energy contributing more than 20% of the energy supply. Many countries are leading the way towards the elimination of fossil fuels by using renewable energy and one of these is Sweden with 56 percent usage. It has also introduced new policies like the bonus system to support low emission vehicles and to increase the use of biofuels.

Aside from the domestic and geopolitical issues that our next set of leaders would face, the environmental crisis would have to be given legitimate solutions as time still permits. The aforementioned are among the countless policies as the state stands alongside the other nations in this battle against human extinction.



# Column

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# GOD'S OBSESSION WITH DICHOTOMY

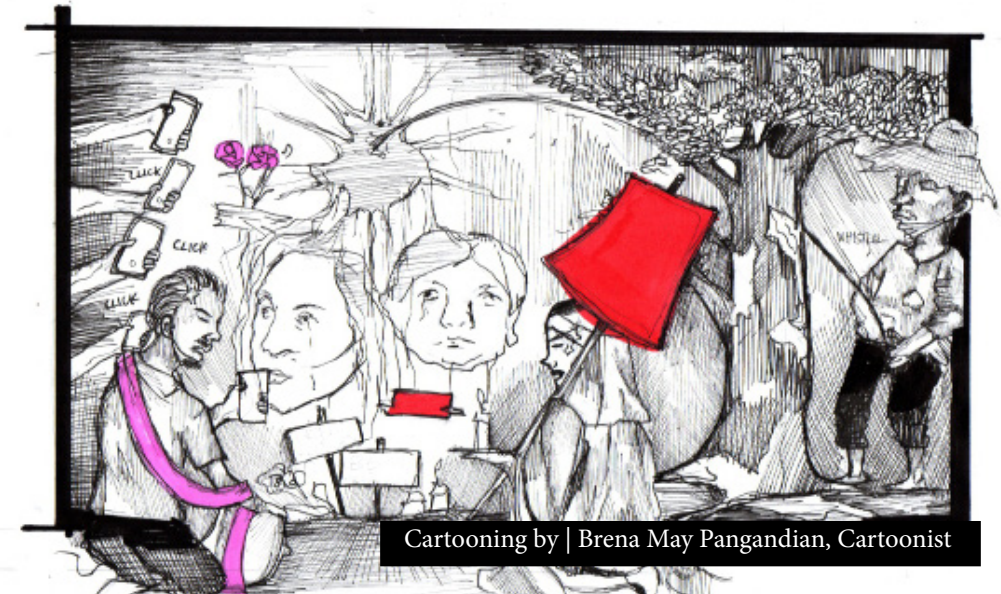
Vis-à-Vis Philippine Politics  
Written by **Adnes Jay Estrada**, *Editor-In-Chief*

Man and woman, emotion and logic, love and hate,  
yin and yang, good and evil, heaven and hell, God and Satan.

The aforementioned are a few of the infinitely more dichotomous relationships imaginable by the human mind. With the existence of a deity, I reckon the omnipotent consciousness of one could never be understood by mere human thought. Nevertheless, humans are foolish, so we foolishly try in our pursuit of eternal enlightenment. One of my attempts is my theory of God's obsession with dichotomy – I believe that a supreme being must be captivated with symmetry and perfect balance. The creator had created everything in opposites, the duality of all things.

As a consequence, man itself must have inherited the same obsession with binary oppositions when God created mankind in his own image during the sixth day of creation, as told through the book of Genesis.

In the Philippine political setting, we've managed to break down immensely complex principles into two – oftentimes morally constrained – ideas. Other states have politically-charged rival ideologies on leftism vs. rightism, Republicans vs. Democrats, Capitalists vs. Communists. The quintessential Filipino personality-driven equivalent to those is the polarization between the Aquino and Marcos families. Succeeding that were mere reflections of the same with political wars between the DDS and Dilawans and now the Loyalists and Kakampinks.



The false dichotomy created by the minuscule capacity of intricate human thinking has brought nothing but decades-long hateful and seemingly eternal rivalries between two sides no less competent, altruistic, and moral as the other as proven by history. Quoting myself from a past column: "... it has become senseless to choose a side as no matter which you choose, you can assure the venomous attacks by toxic self-righteous devotees."

As a result, our minds have been incapable to comprehend hypothetical convergences between and among the dichotomies as seen in our simplistic understanding of domestic and geo-politics – labeling one side as evil and the other as Godly. Further, when generational intellectuals attempt to conjoin the dichotomies like Niccolo Machiavelli by crafting philosophies beyond the prison of moral standards, they're labeled as evil dogmatic witchcraft.

Undoubtedly, there is no universal panacea to this incurable malady. Or maybe, God has specifically constrained our minds to this way as anything more than our current intellect would make us too brilliantly agotisti for a God.

# Feature

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# Voting Rights for Filipinas: The Worthwhile Fight

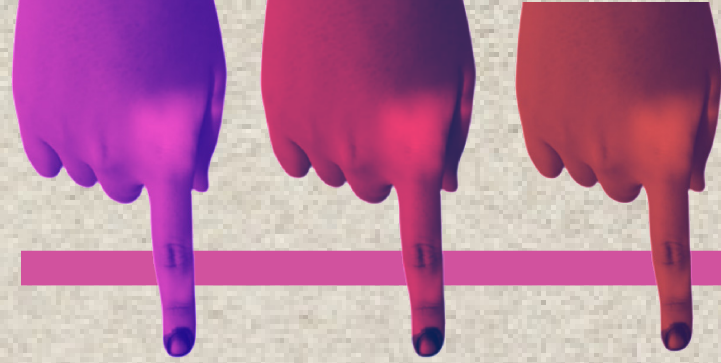


Photo by:  
**Gazelle F. Agero**, *Photojournalist*  
**Jelly Lei Lacusong**, *Column Editor*

Written by:  
**Jessadine Rose Baluyot**, *Feature Editor*

In a patriarchal society, women in the Philippines had to vigorously fight for a seat in politics. It was an essential step towards obtaining more rights for women in general, as to have a voice in democracy means greater opportunity to push for policies that grant them more independence. How did the Philippine women succeed at doing so? Let's take a brief walk down memory lane and recall the events that lead us up to this point in time.

In 1905, the Philippines fell into the hands of the Americans. The Revolutionary War and the American colonization that followed somewhat disrupted the Filipino society. Workers inside Manila's urban centers united and fought for political rights. Just nearby Tondo, the story starts with a middle-class woman: Concepcion Felix Roque and her association, the *Asociacion Feminista Filipina*. The association consisted of her and 12 other women, including Trinidad, Jose Rizal's sister.

They were part of the social purity movement where they fought against what they considered 'immoral virtues' such as gambling, drinking, and prostitution. Initially, suffrage was not their foremost goal as they merely wanted Filipinas everywhere to have a life filled with virtue. They implemented moral campaigns in schools and factories. Furthermore, they sought for the inclusion of women in local education boards and municipal committees. Moreover, they pushed for labor rights and prison reforms as well as health care.

By 1906, another feminist organization emerged: the *Asociacion Feminista Ilongga*, founded by Purificacion Garcia Villanueva. She became the first "Queen of the Manila Carnival" in 1908 and married Teodoro M. Kalaw.

Pura Kalaw activated the flourishing movement. Felix Roque was aware that women had no legal rights in the Philippines, but hesitated to push for change. She requested support from a group of doctors to Instead, she sought the support of a group of doctors to help lobby her legislation. Meanwhile, Kalaw crusaded for suffrage. In 1907, Congressman Vicente Sotto proposed a bill to the First Philippine Assembly to allow women's right to suffrage. The bill

Sadly, legislators rejected the bill as they feared giving women the right to vote would tear apart the fabric of the Filipino family, an argument rooted in feudal ideas of 'family values' and the role of women in society.

The rejection of the bill did not mark the end of the battle for women's suffrage. In 1912, two suffragettes, Carrie Chapman Catt and Dr. Aletta Jacobs, came to meet with Kalaw and Felix Roque in the Philippines. Kalaw and Roque were more inclined towards socio-civic programs, but Catt eventually persuaded them be more political. They formed the Society for the Advancement of Women to comprise the need for women's rights and equality. The Society's name was later changed to the Women's Club of Manila.

The society started off lowkey but managed to continuously exert pressure and garner the support of the American colonial regime, including Francis Harrison, Leonard Wood, and Frank Murphy.

In 1920, a petition signed by over 18,000 women was presented by Felix Roque and two other women to the Philippine Assembly. Unfortunately, the assembly dismissed the petition.

Nevertheless, the setback could not stop the women's suffrage movement. In 1920, the Women's Club conceived the League of Women's Suffragettes. Next, the National Federation of Women's Clubs was established to advocate for women's right to vote. The *Liga Nacional de Damas Filipinas* (1922) and the Women's Citizens League (1928) were also prominent organizations during this period. Things seem to get better in 1933. Governor-general Frank B. Murphy signed the Woman's Suffrage Bill. Was it an early victory? Hardly. It was the calm before the storm.

The 1935 Constitution and the Commonwealth presented a challenge: If "not less than three hundred thousand women" voted in the affirmative, only then will women be granted the right to vote.

The daunting task did not intimidate the suffragists. Distinguished women leaders like Natividad Almeda Lopez, Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Geronima Pecson, Josefa Jara Martinez, and Josefa Llanes Escoda empowered women from all sectors to vote. A multilingual radio program broadcast nationwide was conducted just before the voting day.

April 30, 1937 was a day to remember. 447,725 women (91% of all eligible voters) voted for women's right to suffrage. It was a grand triumph worth the fight.

Two years after winning the right to vote for women, Geronima Pecson was the first woman to become Senator. Since then, several women were given a seat at the table. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo served as president of the Philippines from 2001 to 2010, while Corazon Aquino served from 1986 to 1992. Senator Miriam Palma Defensor-Santiago who had over 20 years of political career served in all three branches of the Philippine government: judicial, executive, and legislative. Fast forward to today, the Philippines is witnessing two women contesting for the two most powerful positions in the country -Leni Robredo, who is running for president, and Sara Duterte for vice president.

The rights and freedoms we rightfully deserve and enjoy today are all thanks to the blood, sweat, and tears of hundreds of thousands of women decades ago. Women all over the Philippines are still oppressed and treated inequally; there is still long battle ahead of us. May we all be determined to stand tall and stand together for women's rights, and not let the past generations' sacrifices be in vain.



# Literature

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# BAYAN O SARILI



Ano't tila naging isang **teorya**,  
ang katotohanan at pagkakapatiran.  
Na sa bawat pasintabi,  
ay samu't saring katampalasanan.

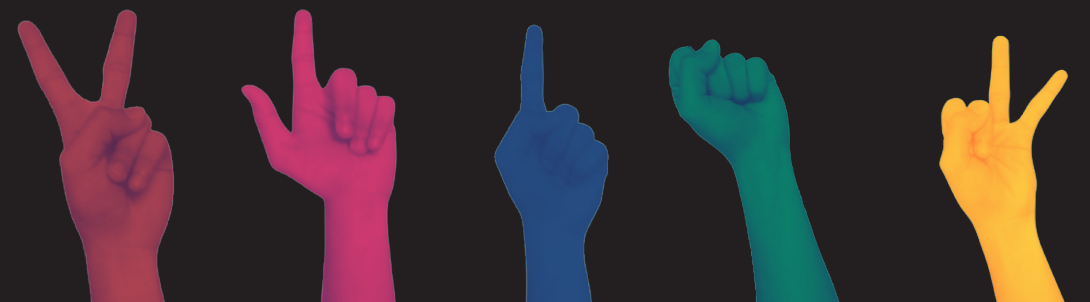
Sa muling pagkakataon,  
ang sambayanan ay **pipili**.  
Muling magluloklok,  
ng sana'y nararapat at natatangi.

Ngunit dapat bang **mabulag**,  
ng mga kulay na siyang humati sa sanlibutan.  
Ng mga kulay na naging tanda ng pagkaka-watak-watak,  
O ang manindigan para sa inaasam na laya at kaayusan.

At kung magtapos sa isang **desisyon**,  
maibabalik ba ang lahat ng nasira?  
Ikaw, ako, at siya,  
Dapat bang mawalan ng saysay?

Manindigan ka sa iyong paniniwala...  
Ngunit mas **manindigan ka sa bayang iyong sinilangan.**

Photo by:  
**John Jerick Manuel**, *Contributor*  
Written by:  
**Vanessa Mae Sinopera**



# Adviser's Note

Our quest for “good politicians” remains the same.

From a single voice that hopes to cleanse the iniquities, to a great noise that warrants significant changes, we always desire to think only of the best things for our country. In becoming a good citizen, as students, studying smart is the first step. Securing a good vote is your next big leap towards success.

Understanding the fundamentals of politics and leadership is always of paramount importance, especially for you, our dear students, who are part of the voice of the masses. The ability to critically choose the leaders of our country is enshrined on your unstoppable pursuit of a better life, and a better nation. This is also inspired by the uncertainties of life, which have become aspirations to rectify past experiences and start things anew.

Thus, this special issue of Technoscope Publications is centered on our decisions to make the society a better place – one where everyone is working in their very best. You will witness readings crafted with the drive to empower minds. All in all, the writers of the publication have dedicated these masterpieces for all of you.

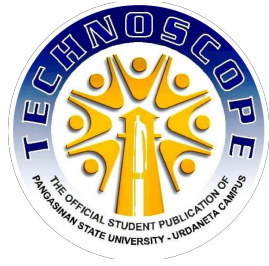
Become the light that dispels the darkness in this world. It starts within you.

Adelante, mis estudiantes!

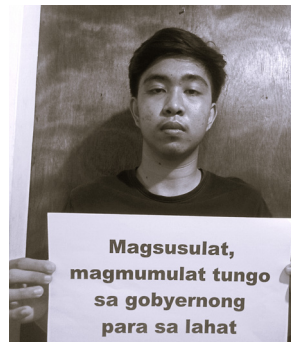
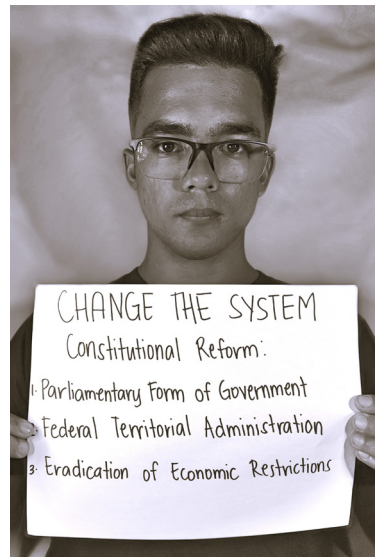


Emil Isaac Conde  
Adviser  
The Technoscope Publications





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