



*ASSEMBLEA: An Online Journal of Political Science*  
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## Notes from the Editors

In this global age, technology has proven to be a useful tool for humans in their quest for knowledge and information. Information technology has increasingly narrowed the gap between the increasing demand for and accessibility of resource materials. It is within this context that the ASSEMBLEA Journal has been conceived. It intends to contribute to the universal goal of making knowledge, particularly in the fields of politics and governance, accessible to as many students, scholars, and researchers as possible. By collecting and uploading researches about various political phenomena in the Philippines and the rest of the world, ASSEMBLEA hopes to play a significant part in the development of Philippine political science. In particular, the Journal aims to do this through articles that enrich literature or shape an unfolding debate. As an online and open-access academic journal, the ASSEMBLEA Journal can be an avenue for both aspiring and seasoned scholars in political science and related fields to reach out to the wider community of scholars and students across the globe.

Change is not only seen and experienced in the formal generation of political knowledge. It has also been the driving force in Philippine politics. The maiden issue of ASSEMBLEA Journal consists of four (4) articles that demonstrate the changing dynamics of Philippine politics in different areas.

The first article focuses on the interaction of the indigenous concept of space and territory with the Philippine post-colonial notion of territorial domain. Its interesting discussion about the political process involved in the determination of land rights ownership based on state laws in the Municipality of Kabayan, Benguet is a classic case of clash between the modern and the traditional. This highlights the challenges of meeting the local expectations with national narratives which is often problematic for many in the Philippines. This is a timely take on the ever complicated issue of indigenous communal claims to land and resources with the patrimonial control of the Philippine government.

The second article tackles the concept of sustainability vis-a-vis local government leadership. Using the principal agent theory, the article analyzes political leadership in the context of political dynasties, which have become part of the political reality in many local government units of the country. With Mandaluyong City and Muntinlupa City as the cases, the study attempts to determine the interconnection between local

government leadership – be it controlled by a dynasty or not – and the effectiveness in implementing sustainable development programs which are based on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) parameters. A part of the findings is that local government units are successful in carrying out the respective SDG programs due to the existence of strong bureaucratic structures. It recognizes that political leadership is not the sole determinant of effectiveness although it is acknowledged as essential in steering directives.

In the third article, the researchers touched on the issue of human interaction with nature in the urban setting. The study narrates how the convergence of social, economic, and political actors connect with the natural environment in Estero de Sampaloc. By employing the theory of urban political ecology, the study analyzed the political dynamics existing in communities vis-a-vis estuaries like Estero de Sampaloc, which affected the ecological condition of the estero and the social state of the people living near it. It underscores the reality in urbanization – that it has greatly altered the connection between man and his environment resulting to hierarchy in terms of social-political conditions that is reflected on the health of the environment.

The last article explains how greater access to social media contributes to the rise of populism in Philippine politics. Using President Rodrigo Duterte's rise to power as an example, the study argues that there is a significant connection between the increased utilization of social media among Filipinos and the rise of President Duterte as a major power figure in the run up to his election as president. It demonstrates how social media have become an important tool for Filipino national politicians like President Duterte to shape and influence the Filipino public in their major political decision-making. With the dynamic use of different forms of engagements through the diverse types of social media platforms, political narratives have been developed and redeveloped to suit a new kind of political language and environment making a new form of discourse in political communication.

Just like how change has defined the political landscape of Philippine politics, it has also defined the manner of exchanging ideas and knowledge in political science. ASSEMBLEA hopes to capture certain aspects of these changes in its bid to help the students understand the political.

EDITORS