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## Con-Com Addresses Charter Change Concerns

The Constitutional Commission (Con-Com) outlined their draft of the Charter Change also known as the “Cha Cha” at a Senate briefing on Tuesday. Ding Genoroso, Spokesperson of the Con-Com, presented the proposed changes and provisions to the 1987 Constitution.

Genoroso addressed the Asia Pulse survey results which revealed that the majority of Filipinos are against altering the 1987 Constitution. Genoroso said that the commission does not plan to pull back the development of the draft because of the survey results.

The Con-Com argues that the current unitary system of government has failed the Filipino people. 52 percent of Filipinos are living on or below the poverty line and development is concentrated within Manila, leaving marginal cities severely underdeveloped. These are only a few of the many grievances outlined by the Con-Com.

Con-Com emphasized that their proposed Bayanihan Federalism is about the non-centralization of power, and distributing power to regional governments with the central government as the main overseer.

The main changes to the Presidency are term limits -- The President will hold a four year term and one reelection instead of the current single six year term. The President will also be granted a “step-in” power over regional governments in cases of violations of the Constitution.

Under Bayanihan Federalism, legislative bodies will be given more distribution of power manifested by greater representation in Congress.

The Con-Com Constitution will establish four high courts: Federal Supreme Court, Federal Constitutional Court, Federal Administrative Court, and the Federal Election Court. These new courts are meant to mitigate the work of the judiciary and speed up the resolution of cases.

This draft attempts to level the political field by banning familial succession in politics, as well as banning multiple positions held by the same family.

Under the Cha Cha, Duterte is not allowed to run for President in the 2022 elections. A transitory President and Vice President will be chosen and hold their positions until after the May 2022 elections.