

I. CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

A. SENATE

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

MANDATE

As provided under the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, the Senate, together with the House of Representatives (HREP), make up the Congress of the Philippines which is vested with legislative powers.

The major functions of the Senate are the following:

1. The Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war. (Paragraph 1, Section 23, Article VI)

2. Within forty-eight (48) hours from the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress. The Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of its Members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President. Upon the initiative of the President, the Congress may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it. (Paragraph 1, Section 18, Article VII)

3. No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate. (Section 21, Article VII)

4. Determines by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately, that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall act as President; otherwise, the President shall continue exercising the powers and duties of his office. (Paragraph 4, Section 11, Article VII)

5. The Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment. (Paragraph 6, Section 3, Article XI)

VISION

A Senate that is independent, fair and fearless; a government institution that zealously protects the Constitution, promotes democratic values and upholds the national interest.

MISSION

To enact laws and enunciate national policies that promote the people's welfare, empower the poor and weak, stimulate economic growth, institute good governance, promote rule of law, strengthen democracy, protect the environment and the nation's rich cultural heritage, and build an equitable, prosperous and orderly society.

KEY RESULT AREAS

Rule of law; improved peace and order; sustainable economic development; and good governance.

SECTOR OUTCOME

Enactment of significant legislation and reform measures.