

POS 100 – A

PDAF: Implications on Congress Electoral Positions

The Priority Development Assistance Fund, or PDAF, is a disbursement granted to the members of the Philippine Congress for use in the development of government projects. Otherwise known as pork barrel, it has recently been surrounded by controversy, especially that of its misuse by several members of the Congress.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that the PDAF scam amounted at an estimated value of PHP 10 billion, with the infamous Janet Lim-Napoles accused as its mastermind. Several members of the Congress and Senate were also implicated in the fraud, with the total amount exposed by the investigation of each member reaching almost PHP 3 billion. After the investigation, the Supreme Court declared the PDAF as unconstitutional, therefore abolishing it.

Following this, current members of the Congress who were implicated in the fraud and who are also vying for reelection have their chances of winning in the elections greatly decreased. Their standing in public opinion has deteriorated, since they are now seen as corrupt officials. And because the public are the voters in the elections, it is important to keep oneself in good light in order to make the success of one's candidacy more probable. The Congress will have its corruption lessened to a degree, since the PDAF is now abolished, members of the Congress cannot use it anymore for their personal gain. New entrants seeking for position in the Congress

will also have less corruption, since the possibility of misusing the PDAF for personal gain used to be a significant motivation for new entrants to the Congress.

Reference: *The Philippine Daily Inquirer*