

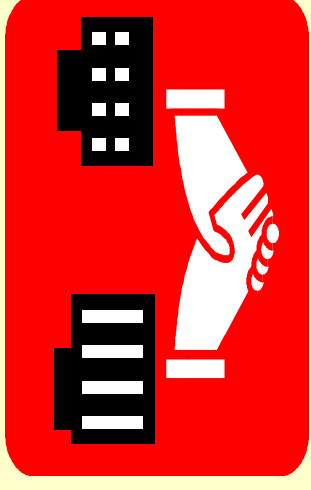
“ In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”



**James Madison
(The federalist No. 51)**

Federalism is a three-tier governmental system characterized by the major devolution of governmental powers and functions from the Federal (national) to the state governments (regional localities). It involves the creation of relatively small co-existing political units that are geographically within the boundaries of economic interaction and territorial reach of the central government.

The states are composed of cities, municipalities and barangays. A province is equivalent to a state in Federal countries like Argentina and Canada.



Federalism respond to the need for new forms of functional administration which brings about greater autonomy for people in far flung regions, thus letting them address their needs and problems in their own way and making available adequate resources.



1. Empirical studies has shown that the most stable Democracies are in countries with a Parliamentary – Federal system.



2. Presidentialism or Presidential Democracy has not worked well in the Philippines for the last 75 years. Presidentialism has not move the country forward to progress and development.

Features of the Federal-Parliamentary System, which is better than the present system of Autonomy.

1. Federalism supports optimally the concept of autonomy

One of the essential problems of any democratic order is the legitimization that it requires from its citizens. Compared to the unitarian system, the federative system enhances the legitimization much more considerably.

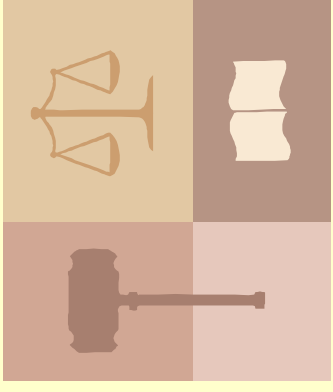
While it is true that a federal order is not an indispensable condition of democracy, it comes closer to the democratic ideal than any unitary order.

2. Decentralizes governmental power

In a federal system, the functions and powers of the Federal Government are limited to:

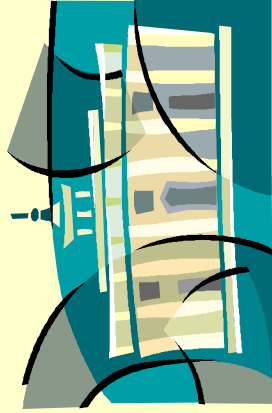
- a) foreign relations;**
- b) currency and monetary policies;**
- c) external defense**
- d) immigration;**
- e) allocation of natural wealth;**
- f) setting standards and policies on environmental management**
- g) postal system;**
- h) specific taxing powers such as income tax, customs**

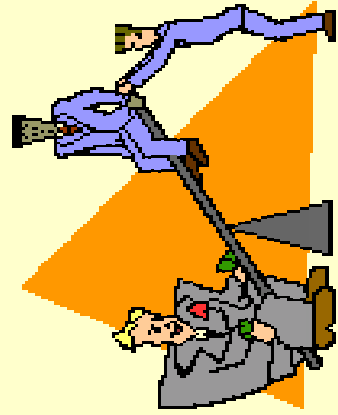
The main governmental functions and powers, which are vital to country development, such as infrastructure, peace and order including economic-social development are assigned to state and local governments.



3. Establishing regional localities as centers of governmental power.

Under a federal system and with the establishment of state governments, such a process will demystify Manila as the main center of governmental power since in a federal system, the states will become regional localities which will be the source of most governmental actions will be based.



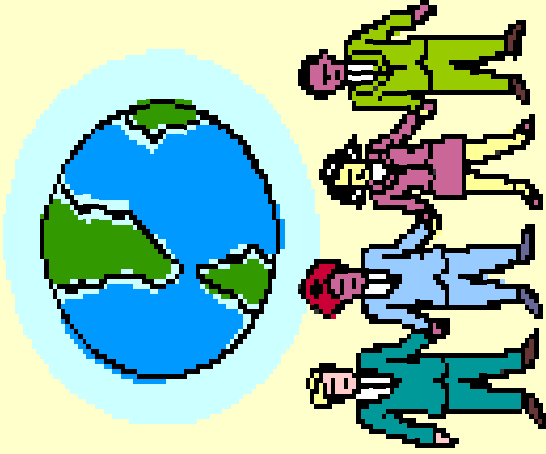


4. State Government Competitions.

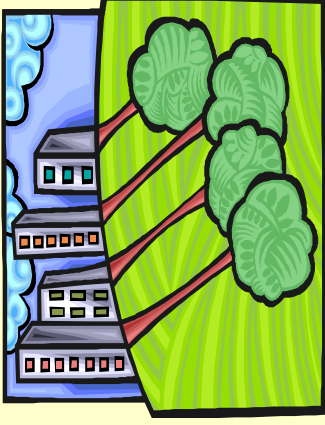
The division of the country into states first will allow diffusion of governmental powers and secondly it will also trigger regional competitions among states in initiating regional development. Most governmental and regional actions will be more effective service partnership between government and regional constituencies will then institutionalized.



5. Federalism allows unity in diversity while this is a folkloristic view; nevertheless it finds utility involving protection of minorities in a democratic mix within the framework of a greater national entity.



6. Will federalism promote more development in the region?



Yes.

a. A decentralized government allows fast decision-making, fasttracking the formulation of a development framework in a given state.



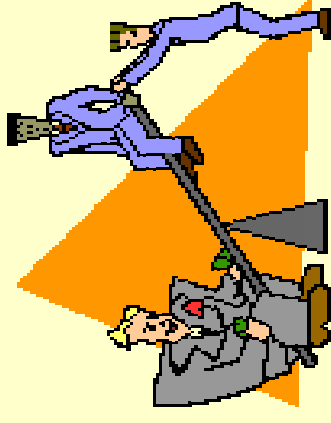
b. The exercise of more taxing powers in addition to a system of federal government subsidy, assures adequate resources to generate development in the region



c. The principle of subsidiarity will allow the smallest community to implement meaningful solutions to solve its particular communitarian problems within a given state or local governments.



d. Federalism will facilitate competition where efficient allocation of governmental resources is assured and through which the openness of the system will also depend





Question:

Will the shift of governmental system respond to the causes of unrest and rebellion in Southern Philippines?

Yes, it will respond to a great extent in terminating the rebellion in the Southern Philippines, for the following reasons:

- 1. A constitutional option in response to the secessionist movement is the creation of a Bangsa Moro State.**

2. A Bangsa Moro State will allow the preservation of a historic diversity and culture which are importantly related to the search of preserving Muslim culture and identity.



3. A Bangsa Moro State will neutralize political and social conflict in Southern Philippines.



4. Effective Bangsa Moro State government will trigger and fasttrack socio economic development in the Southern Philippines





5. The potential incountry and external assistance primarily from Muslim countries will no doubt increase if a Bangsa Moro State will be created and its reality or visibility will cover part or as a whole the present Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

