

Federalism is NO Guaranty that it will solve our problems on poverty, inequality, & slow development.  
The success of the system will depend primarily on the people who will implement it.

Federalism is NOT the SOLUTION, the better ALTERNATIVE is the implementation of the following:

- a) Constitution  
**Fully implement the 1987 Constitution, which is pro-democracy, pro-family, pro-life, pro-people, pro-poor, pro-Pilipino.** Especially its provisions on social justice, human rights, and anti- political dynasty and laws that would allow workers to get their fair and equitable share in the economic growth of the country.
- b) Government institutions & Good Governance  
**It is not the system, but the institutions that play the most crucial factor in the development and progress of any nation.** This is the conclusion of the book “Why Nations Fail”, which is based on empirical data involving many countries.
- c) Good People in government  
**Elect and Appoint honest, competent, dedicated and patriotic people in government,** those who would observe and practice the principles of integrity, meritocracy, transparency, accountability and excellence in the performance of their duties.
- d) Obey and strictly implement the Rule of Law  
The country has so many good laws, but many of them are not being implemented
- e) Full implementation of the New Programs & Reforms initiated. **Fund these programs instead of spending for Federalism and MINIMIZE CORRUPTION.**

#### **A GOOD Christian is a GOOD citizen.**

**UNITE** with others. **Be INVOLVED** in good governance.

**HELP** choose and support servant leaders



## Democracy works when people are informed.



### What you need to know about Chacha/Federalism

**Our Christian Faith compels us to Participate on this issue and Act on it.**

**To SEE** is to know the facts and analyze them well. **To JUDGE** is to assess facts based on the Social Teachings of the Church. **To ACT** is to decide and network with others.

***“None of us can say, ‘I have nothing to do with this, how they govern’... No, no, I am responsible for their governance, and I have to do the best so that they govern well, and I have to do my best by participating in politics according to my ability. (Pope Francis, Sep 16, 2013)”***

#### **Political Dynasties cause POVERTY**

At present, 81% of the governors, 78% of district representatives, and 69% of mayors nationwide belong to political dynasties. Under the Federal Constitution, **Political dynasties will become more powerful to control politics and the local economy.** There is **“Empirical evidence that political dynasties are not just correlated with poverty --- political dynasties cause poverty.”** (Based on a study conducted after the 2016 elections by the Ateneo Policy Center of the Ateneo School of Government, headed by the dean, Dr. Ronald Mendoza.)

#### **Graft and Corruption would worsen**

Under the rule of political dynasties, there will be **no good governance.** It would be difficult to make the political dynasties and landed elites accountable for their decisions and actions in the areas they control. Poverty and corruption is the main problem of the country in this present time. **“This two are fuelling each other which causes stagnant economic growth of low income people, which is majority of the population.”** (PHILIPPINE ECONOMIST at 10/29/2015)

#### **Private armies, warlordism, political killings and violence will worsen**

According for former CJ Hilario Davide, private armies and warlordism would rise under Federalism. **As political warlords,** they will keep and maintain armed goons or

private armies to eliminate their political rivals or those who oppose them, and to ensure their continuous hold to power.

### **The poor Regions will be left behind and become poorer**

In the proposed Federal form of government with 18 Regions, **only 3 Regions** would be economically viable. Under a federal form of government, the 15 poor Regions or States will be left behind and would become even poorer. *(Study by Former Finance Undersecretary (USEC) Milwida Guevara on the fiscal capability of all the regions.)*

The Federal Constitution proposes an “**equalization fund**” from the wealthier regions to help the poor regions. The equalization fund, which is fixed only at 3% of Government Appropriation Act, experts say may not really be sufficient.

### **Bureaucracy will become too big, too bloated**

Our present structure is composed of the National and the Local government, (the provincial, city or municipal government, and the barangay government unit.) The Federal structure will add a new layer which is the Regional Governments, each one with its own executive, legislative, judiciary, and bureaucracy. As a consequence, **thousands of new elective and appointive positions would be created.**

**The cost of the shift to Federal form of government is estimated by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) at P120 Billion. The cost of maintaining all the additional offices that will be created is estimated at P80 Billion per year,** (according to Prof Rosario Manasan, Senior Fellow at the Philippine Institute of Development Studies).

Even the three (3) main economic managers of President Duterte are not in favour of the shift to federal government at this moment.

\* Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez \* NEDA Secretary Ernesto Pernia - \* Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno – *“the shift to a federal form of government should not be rushed, that the economic managers should come up with an in-depth study, especially on fiscal federalism or decentralization.”*

Many big business groups supported the country’s economic managers in their opposition to the shift to federalism. The added bureaucracy would make life more difficult for businessmen in particular and the people in general. The business people will have to deal with more government offices at several layers. Red-tape would worsen. **Business and people will end up paying more taxes.**

### **Overhaul of the Constitution is too risky**

*A “messed up” reform by legislation can be corrected; “a messed up” constitutional shift is almost impossible to unravel and may lead to the ruin of our democracy.* The recommendation of experts was for governments with functioning democratic systems to first consider **reform and refinements, rather than an overhaul, of the system** because there is no consensus on the superiority of a federal to a unitary system, and vice-versa, particularly on long-term outcomes. *(A Global Forum on Autonomy and Governance Dusit Hotel Makati City, October 20-22, 2016.)*

**The shift to Federalism is an overhaul of the entire Constitution. What if it does not work?** There is no turning back once the shift to Federalism is made. *In fact, the Puno constitution would not allow any change in the federal setup forever.*

In history, there is no country which shifted to Federal Government that was able to go back to its previous form, even if the experiment for Federal Government was a clear failure.

### **The Federal Constitution can easily lead to dictatorship**

The Federal Constitution provides for the creation of a **Transitory Commission** to be headed by the President, who will appoint 10 other members. It will have legislative powers by decree-making to formulate the transition plans of the federal government, in every federated region, and the branches of government. It will have executive powers to act and implement the transition plans. And it will have judicial powers to settle disputes arising from the plans. **The President can exercise the legislative, executive and judiciary powers all by himself.** The transition period can last 10 years or longer. During the transition period, government powers will all be centralized in the hands of the President. **It will be a one-man rule, a dictatorship.**

### **Pre-conditions for a successful shift to Federalism are not present**

According to a study of the House of Representatives, the pre-conditions for a successful shift to federal-parliamentary system are the following - *a strong political party system, an established credible electoral system, and a strong bureaucracy.* These preconditions do not exist in the Philippines today.

A country that shifts to a federal government, without the existence of the preconditions, will not succeed and would most likely fall into dictatorship and serious economic crisis, like Venezuela, Iraq and Sudan.