

[BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 126, April 28, 1981]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR GROUPS AND DEFINING CERTAIN RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Batasang Pambansa, in session assembled:

SECTION 1. *Accreditation of political parties or groups.* — For purposes of the election herein provided, only two political parties or groups shall be accredited in accordance with the following rules:

The Commission on Elections shall determine *motu proprio* or upon sworn petition by any political party or group, after due notice and hearing, which of the political parties or groups presenting or supporting a candidate shall be granted accreditation, taking into consideration the number of members of said political party or group in the Batasang Pambansa, the record of performance in past elections, plebiscites or referendums, bailiwicks of support, capability to wage a national campaign, the platforms or programs of government, and other similar and relevant factors. The sworn petition of a political party or group as herein provided shall contain statements relevant to the standards of accreditation established in this paragraph, and such other information as may be required by the Commission on Elections.

The Commission on Elections shall decide any petition for accreditation within three days from the submission of the case for resolution.

Political parties with national or regional constituencies, and/or other groups or organizations may enter into alliances or coalitions for the purpose of presenting or supporting a common candidate for President.

In case the two accredited political parties or groups entitled to representatives in the Citizens Election Committee, or the Board of Canvassers shall be supporting or nominating a common candidate, the two accredited political parties shall be entitled to only one representative. The Commission on Elections in such case shall grant the right to appoint the other representative to the political party or group nominating the opponent or in case of several opponents such right shall be given to the party or group pursuant to the guidelines provided for in this section.

The accreditation herein granted shall be without prejudice to the right of any political party or group to present and support a candidate for President.

SEC. 2. *Representation of parties or groups in the Citizens Election Committee.*—The appointment of the member of the Citizens Election Committee and his substitute shall be proposed by the two political parties or groups duly accredited by the Commission on Elections in accordance with the preceding section.

SEC. 3. *Defining other rights or privileges of accredited political parties or groups.*—
(1) *Party vote.*—If the voter writes on the ballot the name of the accredited political party or group instead of the name of its official candidate, the vote shall, any