

Emerging Populism:

Contributing Factors, Impacts and Countermeasures

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JEF-PIDS Integration and Inclusiveness in a Digital Society

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Marco Polo, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Japan Economic Foundaton (JEF)
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Outline

- Contributing Factors
- Impacts
- Countermeasures

Emerging Populism: Contributing Factors

The Philippine experience in the rise of populism.

Contributing Factors

- Political leaderships were supported by traditional influential sectors.
- Despite awareness of global trends, incorporating useful changes in society seemed formidable and reforms were slow in coming.
- Needs of a young and growing population clamored for positive action as dangers of inadequate national attention took its toll.
- Poor infrastructure, corruption, weak enforcement of laws among others, seemed to endure.
- Rise of recent political leadership reflected a reading of what ails society and a promise of actions translated to popular political mandate.
- A city mayor as candidate with meager political resources won the presidential election.

Emerging Populism: Impacts

How populist sentiments affect the free trade movement.

Impacts

- Free trade movement took back seat as priority turned to addressing the ills of society.
- Priority given to development work that are inclusive and integrating society via new legislation, use of technology, resort to social media, and challenges facing Mindanao.
- Bilateral issues gravitated towards basic aspects of bilateral relationships i.e. respect for sovereignty, domestic priorities defining the kind of development assistance, among others.
- Active and high level participation in the ASEAN region and cultivating deeper friendship with immediate neighbors of the Philippines.
- Strong expectations on what the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) can achieve and on what the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) can truly deliver.

Emerging Populism: **Countermeasures**

Directing populism towards integration and inclusiveness in a digital society.

Countermeasures

- Process of appreciating gains from free trade and what remains to be achieved, have started to be reflected in a few government statements.
- Segments of society subject to inclusive growth measures have expectations clearly manifested through stakeholder consultations.
- Delivery of public service defined to eliminating long queues in offices i.e., timely attention from government personnel.
- Social media availed of in addressing inclusiveness issues as well as the political leadership when relating to constituents.
- Public expectations for delivery of public services have been on the rise with widespread interest in the use of technology on an upsurge across many national agencies of government and local government units.

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