

- A dangerous form of nepotism in the upper brackets threatens to undermine the feeble foundations of Philippine democracy.

PHILIPPINE POLITICAL DYNASTIES

A new twist in the dynasty trend in Philippine politics is in the offing.

Witness for instance the following cases:

In San Juan, while Mayor Nicanor C. Ibuna is running for reelection as the NP official candidate, his son, Rodolfo has been nominated to the 8-man NP council.

In Caloocan City, Mayor Macario Asistio is the NP official candidate while his son, Macario "Boy" Asistio, Jr. is eyeing a seat in the municipal council. Since the father is the head of the local NP chapter, the selection of the young Asistio to the slate is certain.

In Pasay City, Mayor Pablo Cuneta is the LP official candidate. His son, who was earlier being boosted to run for vice mayor under the ticket of his father, is reportedly seeking a seat in the LP council slate instead.

Ordinarily, in various parts of the country, the husband-and-wife team has been the vogue, as in the following instances:

In Ilocos Sur, while Rep. Floro Crisologo (N-Ilocos Sur), is the congressman of the province's first district, his wife, Mrs. Carmen "Car meling" Crisologo, is the governor.

In Cagayan, while Rep. Tito Dupaya (N-Cagayan) is the congressman in the first district, his wife, Mrs. Teresa Dupaya, is the governor of the province.

In Pampanga, while Francisco Nepomuceno is the governor of the province, his wife, Mrs. Juanita Nepomuceno, is also the congresswoman of the first district.

The same thing prevails in Albay, where Venacio Ziga is the congressman of the second district, and his wife, Mrs. Tecla San Andres Ziga, is a senator.

In La Union, it is the other way around because Mrs. Magnolia Antonino is the congresswoman for the first district, while her husband, Gaudencio Antonino, is a member of the senate.

Another husband-and-wife team also exists in Cebu under a different setup. Rep. Ramon Durano (N-Cebu) is one of the seven representatives of the province, while his wife is the mayor of Danao City.

While the husband-and-wife team has been existing already for sometime, the father-and-son team will be put to a test as far as local

politics is concerned.

There existed sometime ago, however, a father-and-son team, but under a new setup. This existed in this premiere province when the late Sen. Eulogio Rodriguez Sr., was senator and his son, the late Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., was congressman of the second district.

Later, while the late senator was still a member of the senate, another son, Isidro S. Rodriguez, became governor of the province and is still the incumbent head of Rizal. — *Salvador Elizalde, Manila Chronicle, Sept. 5, 1967.*