Title of the paper: A Study on the Impact of Election Spending on the Philippine Economy

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Abstract

An election is a big socio-economic activity, mobilizing manpower, finances and redefining the structure of political and administrative powers. Elections in the Philippines by common knowledge influence markets, prices, the labor market and economic activities. Authoritative and qualitative political analyses abound that looked into the sources of political finance and its impact to governance. However, there is a need for a study that details the impact an electoral process contributes to economic growth in sectors and industries. Such study should be fairly comprehensive in nature, delving on national and local election coverage, to be able to establish forward and backward linkages among sectors. The methodology utilized also has to be robust and easily replicated by other researchers. Utilizing direct-cost estimation based data from the 2004 synchronized national elections, the authors utilized the 2000 Input-Output (I-O) Accounts. The results demonstrated that the electoral exercise produce a positive effect to the economy. Further, these also opened the discussion on the capacity of elections to bring about employment generation, as a future research area.

Key words: Philippine elections, economy, Input-Output model, employment