

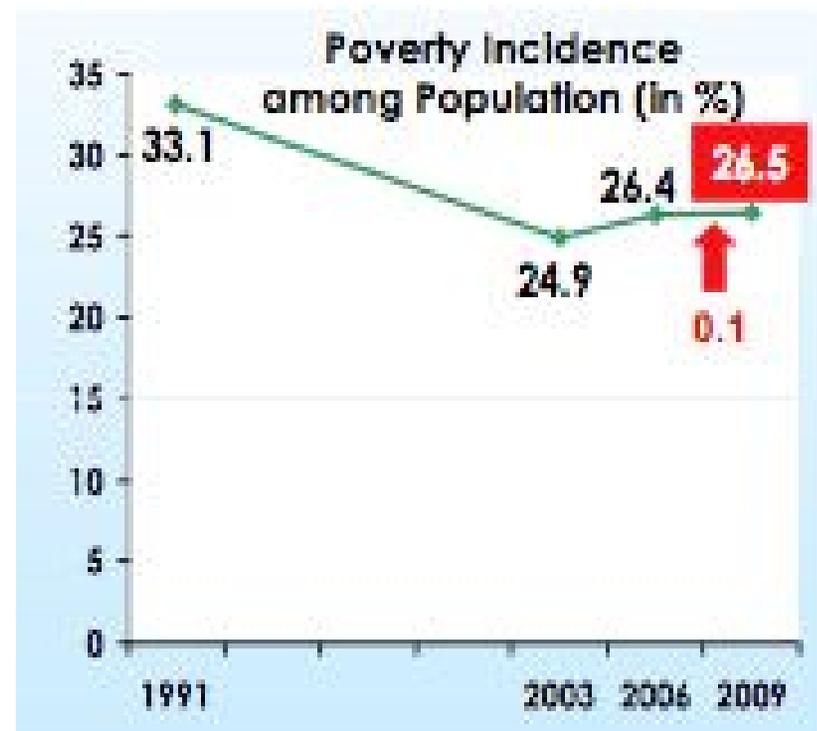
# The Curious Cases of Civil Society and Decentralization

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# Democracy

- ◆ Outcome of redistribution of resources (power) both economic and political
- ◆ The “notorious sign of a lack” or the “perpetual absence of something more” (O’Donnell)



# Main concern and argument

- ◆ *How civil society and local governments after decentralization have facilitated democratization?*
- ◆ *Both have suffered from innate systemic limits and therefore have not really propelled the democratization process in the country*

# Civil Society



# Definition

- ◆ a *realm in the interstices* of the state, political society, the market, and the society at large for organization by nonstate, nonmarket groups that take *collective action in the pursuit of the public good*;
- ◆ a distinct sphere for *discourse and construction of normative ideals through interaction among nonstate groups on the basis of ideas and arguments*
- ◆ an autonomous arena of *self-governance by nonstate actors in certain issue areas*
- ◆ an instrument for *collective action to protect the autonomy of the nonstate public realm, *affect regime type*, and influence the politics and policies of the state, political society, and the market.*

# Relationship to democratization

- Civil society as a necessary condition
- Civil society may or may not facilitate democratization

# Loci of engagement

- 🔹 Communities
- 🔹 Sectors
- 🔹 Streets
- 🔹 State
- 🔹 Regional/international arena

# Forms of intervention

- ◆ Organizing
- ◆ Popular education
- ◆ Protests
- ◆ Lobbying
- ◆ Partnership with or formation of political parties
- ◆ “Crossing over” to government or to political society

# Breadth and depth

- ◆ Number of organizations within estimated at half a million but membership figures vary significantly
- ◆ Continuous interventions have netted a number of gains
  - ◆ Relatively responsive legislation, from UDHA, Anti-Rape to CARPeR
  - ◆ Pressure on, collaboration with the Executive and judicial recourse
  - ◆ Protests in 1997 and 2001 achieved their aims
  - ◆ *Change Politics Movement*

# Limits

- ◆ Horizontal --

- ◆ divisions within civil society
- ◆ Project orientation

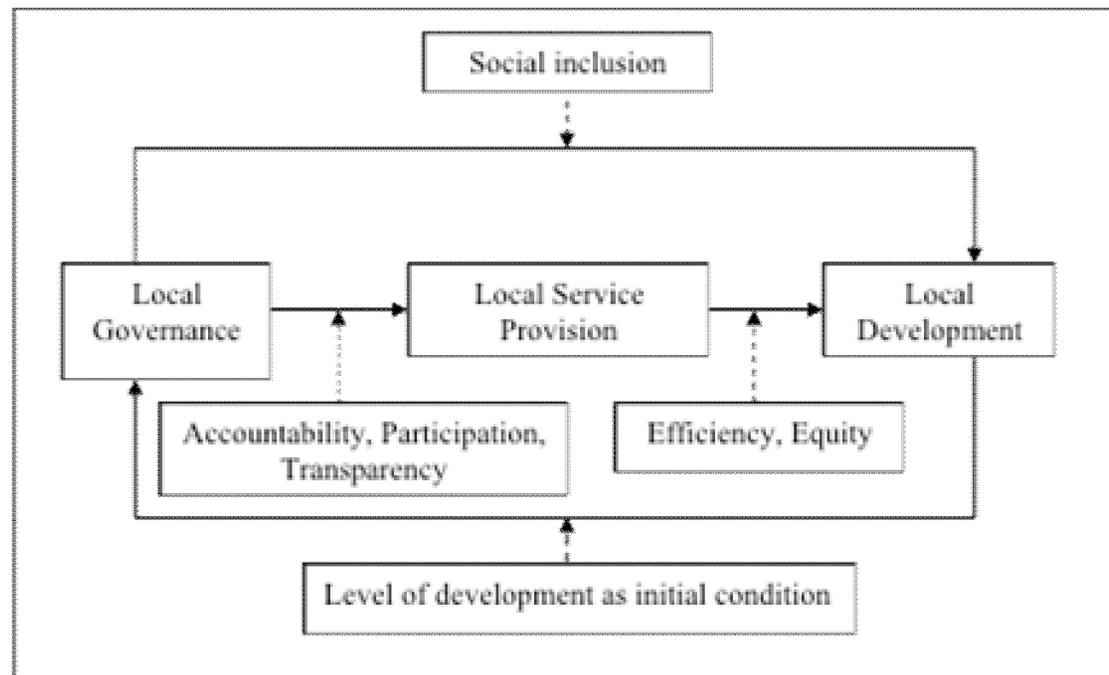
- ◆ Vertical

- ◆ Between leaders and members of civil society organizations
- ◆ Asymmetry between the state and civil society (and the superficiality of an element in political society—political parties)

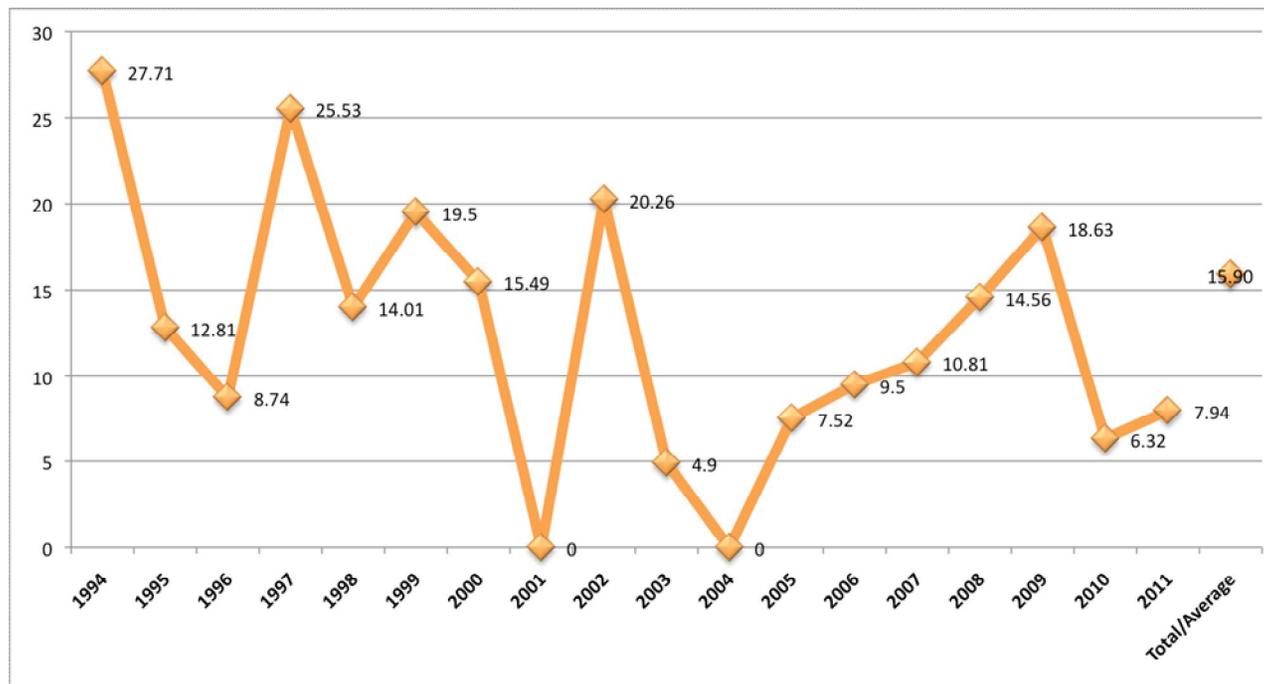
# Decentralization



# Connections



# IRA Annual Increases



# Public appraisal

- ◆ Close to 7 (68%) out of 10 Filipinos were satisfied with the quality of local governance
- ◆ A plurality to significant majority satisfaction with the performance of local government on local issues from social welfare to promoting public-private collaboration
- ◆ Among local governance stakeholders, the Mayor obtained the highest trust rating (78%), while other local governance stakeholders (barangay captain, members of the barangay council, the police, NGOs, and business association garner plurality to a significant majority trust rating

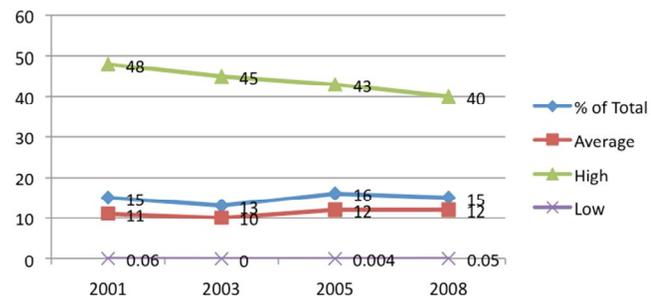
# Best Practices

# Constraints

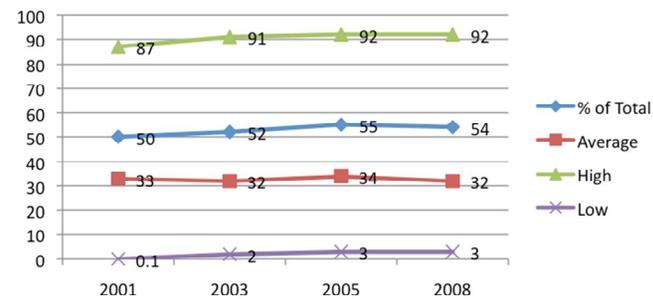
- 💧 Statutory
  - 💧 Sectoral representation
  - 💧 Limits to fiscal authority

# IRA Dependence

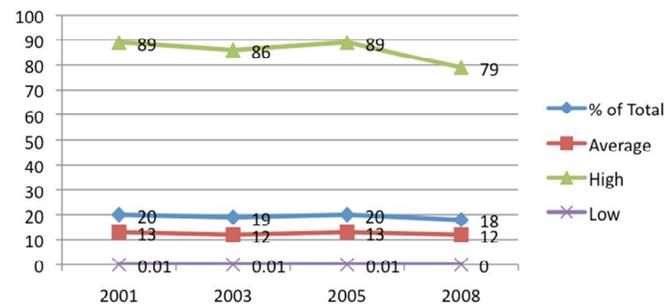
**Figure 6. Provinces, % of Local Income to Total Income, 2001-2008**



**Figure 7. Cities, % of Local Income to Total Income, 2001-2008**



**Figure 8. Municipalities, % of Local Income to Total Income, 2001-2008**



# Organizational constraints

- 🟢 Personnel competence
- 🟢 Development planning
- 🟢 Flypaper effect

# Systemic constraint

The institutional environment at the sub-national level mirrors that at the national level...**local governments display a subjugation of the public administration to the dominant political power** which — as at the national level — has led to...a complex and enduring web of connections between political executives, civil servants, and business interests...It is important not to underestimate such obstacles in the quest for improvements... The workings of intergovernmental (fiscal, administrative, and political) relations are particularly vulnerable to the instability induced by an excessively politicized system of rewards and allocations, and by uneven institutional strength and resourcefulness among national executive, congressional, provincial, and city or municipal actors."

# Moving forward

- ◆ Emphasis on political engagement through a reform coalition among civil society organizations and “progressive” elements of political society
- ◆ Organize parochially