

Presidential Candidate 5. LACSON, PING

PARTIDO PARA SA DEMOKRATIKONG REFORMA

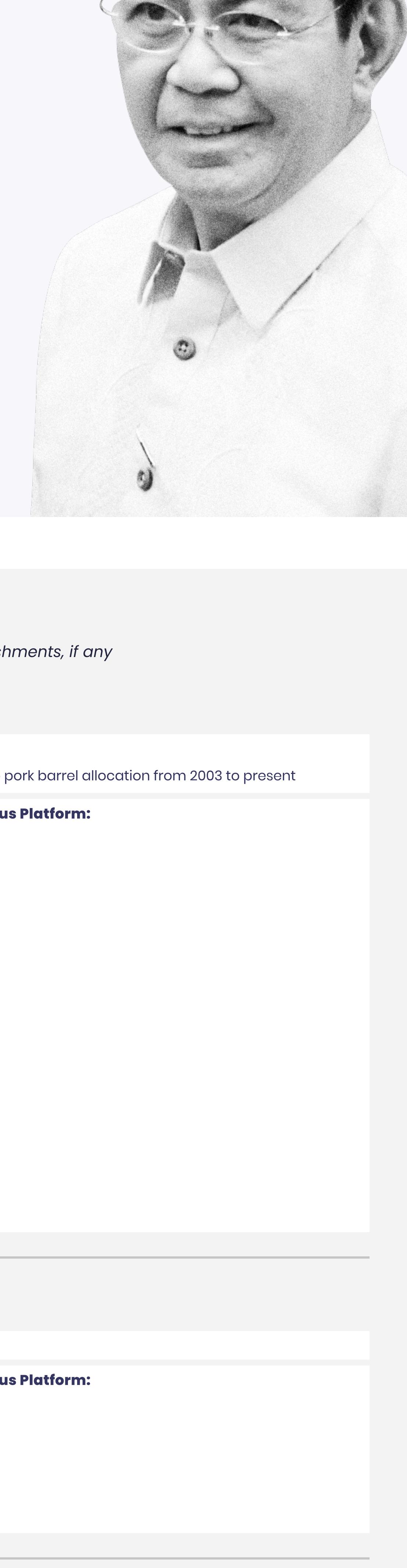
Ping Lacson, 73, has served in the legislative and executive branches of the government for over 40 years. He is currently serving his third term in the Senate.

Lacson has authored laws such as the controversial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, the Philippine Identification System Act of 2018, and the Reproductive Health Act of 2011. He has long served as a watchdog on the national budget, pushing to delete pork barrel and other questionable insertions during plenary Senate debates.

Prior to becoming a lawmaker, he served as chief of the Philippine National Police from 1999 to 2001. He started his career in law enforcement in 1971 as a member of the infamous Metrocom Intelligence Security Group that was responsible for the disappearances and torture of activists and critics of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Lacson denies that he ever took part in the MISG's nefarious activities, maintaining that he worked on cases involving kidnap for ransom, holdups, and common crimes as a member of the unit's police branch.

He also launched a failed bid for the presidency in 2004.

If elected, Lacson vows to restore public trust in government by improving the country's pandemic response, purging the bureaucracy of corrupt officials, and allowing local governments more autonomy.



Platform and Policy

The candidate's top priorities if elected to office, tracked against previous promises and accomplishments, if any

Anti-corruption; Budget reform

Related Policy Proposal:

- 1. Elimination of pork barrel allocations
- 2. Establish an annual Local Development Fund to assist local government units in implementing three-year development plans
- 3. Exemption of all public officials from the privacy protection under the Bank Secrecy Act
- 4. Prevent misuse of unallocated funds from the national budget
- 5. Full automation of Bureau of Customs operations and punish all erring personnel
- 6. Cross-referencing major revenue collecting agencies to prevent tax collection losses
- 7. Empower local government units through his Budget Reform Advocacy for Village Empowerment plan, which downloads resources to LGUs for implementation of development plans

Previous Platform:

Consistent opposition to pork barrel allocation from 2003 to present

Deviation from Previous Platform:

Track Record/Accomplishment:

- 1. Scrutinized national budget proposals to identify questionable allocations
- 2. Led investigations in aid of legislation of anomalous government transactions
- 3. Republic Act No. 9485, Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007
- 4. Filed Senate Bill No.23 or the proposed Budget Reform for Village Empowerment (BRAVE) Act in 2019
- 5. Called for a moratorium on PhilHealth corruption in 2020

Economic recovery; Support for industries

Related Policy Proposal:

- 1. Targeted fiscal stimulus packages to businesses
- 2. Support to micro, small and medium enterprises
- 3. Eviction and foreclosure moratoriums and employee-retention tax credits
- 4. "Filipino First" policy, including production of health supplies
- 5. Reinvent the Conditional Cash Transfer or 4Ps programs, with emphasis on Cash-for-Work mechanisms

Previous Platform:

Deviation from Previous Platform:

Track Record/Accomplishment:

- 1. Among authors of RA. No.1055 or the Philippine Identification System Act
- 2. Proposed increase of funding for the National Broadband Program

Digitization

Related Policy Proposal:

- 1. More efficient rollout of the national ID system
- 2. Improve broadband service and access
- 3. Increase resources for automation and interoperability of government agencies

Previous Platform:

Deviation from Previous Platform:

Track Record/Accomplishment:

- 1. Among authors of RA. No.1055 or the Philippine Identification System Act
- 2. Proposed increase of funding for the National Broadband Program

Health; COVID-19 pandemic

Related Policy Proposal:

- 1. Focus on economic recovery and strengthening the health sector in the 1st 10 days in office
- 2. Fully fund and enforce RA. No.11223 or the Universal Health Care Act of 2019

Previous Platform:

Deviation from Previous Platform:

Track Record/Accomplishment:

- 1. Called on the national government's coronavirus task force to ensure more affordable and accessible testing for COVID-19
- 2. Proposed that local government units and private businesses and entities be more proactive in procuring tests and personal protective equipment for their constituents to bring down prices and cut down queues in testing
- 3. Urged testing centers to keep their clients informed about their tests

Anti-insurgency

Related Policy Proposal:

- 1. Enforcement of the law against all offenders while ensuring human rights violations are held liable
- 2. Continuation of peace talks with rebels

Previous Platform:

Deviation from Previous Platform:

Track Record/Accomplishment:

- 1. Principal sponsor and one of the authors of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020

Major Accomplishments

The candidate's top five accomplishments and contributions for the last 15 years or so

Public Office

From 1971 to 1986, Lacson was part of the Metrocom Intelligence Security Group and was identified by American historian Alfred McCoy as among the operatives who "toregated together for over a decade, forming a tight faction that would rise together within the police after Marcos's downfall." Lacson denies this and claims that McCoy incorrectly generalized the entire Philippine Military Academy Class of 1971 as complicit in the human rights violations perpetrated during the Marcos regime. He has also said that he was assigned to the police branch of the MISG which was focused on criminality and not the security branch that was assigned to insurgency and other security concerns.

Murder charges have twice been filed against Lacson throughout his law enforcement career: the first was in 1995 over the gunning down of 11 members of Kuratong Baleleng Syndicate and the second in 2010 over the murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito. Both cases were eventually dismissed by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 and the Court of Appeals, respectively. The dismissals were also upheld by the Supreme Court.

Before he was cleared by the CA, Lacson evaded arrest by fleeing the country for over a year. Former intelligence officers Cesar Mancao and Victor Corpus have since apologized for implicating Lacson in the Dacer-Corbito murder case.

As the country's top cop, Lacson sought to expel kootong (bribery or extortion) culture from the Philippine National Police. This was in line with his own "no-take" policy as a member of the police force, refusing rewards from the numerous families of kidnap-for-ransom victims that he rescued and rejecting bribes from gambling groups.

As a senator, Lacson is known as a fierce watchdog against dubious insertions and needless appropriations in the national budget. He has also authored at least 29 laws in the three terms he has served in the Senate including the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018 and the Reproductive Health Act of 2011. He co-authored at least three others.

Among the laws he both authored and principally sponsored is the controversial Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 which seeks to prevent, prohibit and penalize terrorism.

Several petitions assailing the constitutionality of the law were filed following its passage on the grounds of broadness, overreach and vagueness, particularly in its definition of terrorism and acts of terrorism.

Petitioners further alleged that the law violates freedom of expression, association and religion as well as the rights of the accused protected under the 1987 Constitution. Critics of the law fear abuse of the sweeping definitions, the broad powers granted to the Anti-Terror Council and other authorities, as well as provisions allowing prolonged detention for those arrested without a warrant.

On Dec. 9, 2021, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of all but two portions of two provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Act. Lacson has said that the ruling is a win for him and other supporters of the law. Addressing criticism of the measure, he previously vowed dogged oversight over its implementation and said he would join protests on the streets if the law was ever abused.

Two Aeta farmers were the first to be charged under the law for alleged violation of Section 4. They were detained for a year before a court ruled that prosecution evidence was insufficient.

Legislative Branch Accomplishments

Title	Description	Position / Date	Status
R.A. No.11479, or the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020		Author and sponsor (Oct. 1, 2019)	Signed into law on Jul. 3, 2020. Mostly upheld by the Supreme Court after it was contested by 37 groups of petitioners.
R.A. No.11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act of 2020		Author (Mar. 23, 2020)	Signed into law on Mar. 24, 2020
R.A. No. 8049, or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018		Author and sponsor (Jan. 23, 2018)	Signed into law on Jun. 29, 2018
R.A. No.1738, or the Philippine Identification System Act of 2018		Author and sponsor in the Senate (Mar. 12, 2018)	Signed into law on Aug. 6, 2018
R.A. No.10354 or the Reproductive Health Act of 2011		Author	Signed into law on Dec. 21, 2012

Executive Branch Accomplishments

Title	Description	Position / Date	Status
Coordinated government efforts following super typhoon Yolanda and submitted the Yolanda Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan	Following super typhoon Yolanda and submitted the Yolanda Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan	Presidential Assistant on Rehabilitation and Recovery, December 2013 to February 2015	Resigned as rehabilitation head and the functions and duties of the position were absorbed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

Actions and / or Proceedings

Actions and/or proceedings pending against or resolved in courts or tribunals involving the candidate, based on publicly available information

Resolved Actions and/or Proceedings

Subject Matter	Relevant Dates	Accrued Liability	Status
Murder charges were filed against Lacson and 33 other members of a joint task force over the killing offl members of the Kuratong Baleleng syndicate	Shootout on May 18, 1995 Murder cases filed on Nov. 2, 1995 with the Sandiganbayan, but transferred to the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City RTC dismissed the charges for lack of probable cause on March 29, 1999 Murder charges re-filed on June 6, 2011 with the RTC		Case was dismissed on Nov. 12, 2003 by the RTC for lack of probable cause SC affirmed the dismissal on Nov. 21, 2012
Murder charges were filed against Lacson and other police officers over the killings of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito	Abduction occurred on Nov. 24, 2000 Bodies were found in April 2001 Arrest warrant issued against Lacson on Feb. 4, 2010		Case was dismissed by the Court of Appeals on Feb. 3, 2011 SC upheld the dismissal with finality on Nov. 26, 2011

Actions and/or proceedings pending against or resolved in courts or tribunals involving the candidate, based on publicly available information

* As of Dec. 31, 2020

Campaign Details

Key details about the candidate's campaign

Campaign Manager

Ronaldo Puno (campaign manager for Partido Reforma)

Alliances and Endorsements

Vicente Sotto III, vice-presidential running mate

Party History

Major Advocacies

The candidate's top advocacy in the last 15 years or so

Opposition to pork barrel allocation

Description:
Position/Date: Since 1st term in 2003 - As senator

Status: Continues budget allocation scrutiny at plenary deliberations in the Senate

Support for anti-political dynasty bills

Description:
Position/Date: As senator, filed bills prohibiting political dynasties

Status: No anti-political dynasty bill has passed

Newfound opposition to the death penalty

Description:
Position/Date: Reversal of support for reinstating death penalty as of Nov. 4, 2021, said he now realizes that "it is more important to save the life of wrongly convicted person."

Status: Withdrawn his Senate Bill No. 27, seeking the reinstatement of capital punishment for heinous crime convicts, on Nov. 9, 2021.

Backs proposal of his running-mate, Senate President Vicente Sotto III, to create regional penitentiaries for the lifetime imprisonment of high-level drug traffickers and heinous crime convicts.

Major Donors

Candidate's major donors and campaign funding sources

There is no publicly available information on this matter at this time. Requested information from the candidate was not provided.

Personal Details

Basic information on the candidate's family, background and work experience

Name to appear on the ballot: LACSON, PING
Full Name: Panfilo "Ping" Moreno Lacson
Birthdate: June 1, 1948 (73 years old on election day)
Birthplace: Imus, Cavite
Residence:
Religion:
Languages Spoken: Filipino, English, understands Bisaya

Parents: Buenaventura Lacson, father, jeepney driver

Maxima Moreno, mother, market vendor

Siblings:

Marital Status: Married, Alice de Perio

Children: Reginold Lacson

Ronald Jay Lacson

Panfilo Lacson Jr.

Jenc Lacson

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Philippine Military Academy, 1971

Master in Government Management, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, 1998

Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, 2019

Work Experience:

• Senator, 2001 to 2013; 2016 to present