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Presidentialism and Executive Orders on Sustainable Development in the Philippines, 1946-2025: Cabinet Coalescence and Cabinet Size

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Abstract

Progress of achieving sustainable development around the world varies including the Philippines. While most current literature has explained that economic growth, digital and technological development, natural resource management with protection, social and economic inclusion, inclusive human development, sustainable infrastructure management, public awareness, governance, and rule of law are the main powerful factors that determine progress, limited research analyzes on the law-making process under the presidential system through executive order issuance. To provide evidence and analyze the pattern, this study uses Ordinary Least Squares regression analysis on the 5,357 executive orders in 1946-2025. The empirical and statistical findings show that under sustainable development context, the higher level of cabinet coalescence which represents a more equal distribution of the positions of ministries for the presidents' coalition based on the number of seats owned by the coalition in the legislature arena, and the bigger cabinet size which represents big number of political parties support in the legislature arena, then the more the presidents of the Philippines issue executive orders related with sustainable development. This result confirms that executive orders issuance related with sustainable development represent a crucial analytical window to a new knowledge in which state intervention policy on sustainable development in the presidentialism system under multi political party is subject to the government cabinet dynamics.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Presidentialism, Executive Orders, Executive-legislative Relations

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Introduction

The sustainable development progress of countries around the world are uneven, in which the Philippines is good evidence as a country with low achievement in the sustainable development. The United Nations data on the achievement of sustainable development goals shows that from 167 countries around the world, the Philippines is in the 87 positions with 68.34 for the sustainable development goals index score (Holden et al., 2025; Mensah, 2019; Sachs, 2025). Of the 17 sustainable development goals, the Philippines government achieves one goal on the goal number 12, responsible consumption and production, in which the Philippines government succeeds to achieve more than 50 percent required by the United Nations on the waste plastic export, nitrogen emission import, air pollution, municipal and electronic waste (Sachs, 2025). Meanwhile, the progress report on goal number 13 of the sustainable development goals (climate action) indicates that significant challenges remain (Sachs, 2025). The progress report on the eight sustainable development goals shows that significant challenges remain, namely zero hunger, no poverty, quality education, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, and partnership for the goals (Sachs, 2025). The progress report on the seven sustainable development goals shows that major challenges remain, namely good health and wellbeing, life on land, life below water, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, reduced inequality, and peace, justice, and strong institutions (Sachs, 2025).

To explain the performance of sustainable development in the Philippines, many studies have shown variables contribute to increase and decrease of the achievement of the progress report on the sustainable development goals such as inclusive economic growth (Holum & Jakobsen, 2024), digital innovation and technological development (Varriale et al., 2025), natural resource management with protection (Al-Humaiqani & Al-Ghamdi, 2022; O'Brien et al., 2012), social and economic inclusion (Ferdous & Eslamian, 2026), inclusive human development (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2019; Khan et al., 2025; Kumari et al., 2025), sustainable infrastructure management (Daoud et al., 2025), and public awareness development (Crotty & Hall, 2014; Özmen, 2025). Other studies argue that governance becomes the central factor, in which robust countries' institutions will perform better on each sustainable development goal than weak countries' institutions (Ugwoke et al., 2026). The alignment of policy implementation and sustainable development agenda depends on the institution quality (Megerssa et al., 2025). The ways countries produce their regulations become significant evaluation of how strong their institutions (Zhou et al., 2026). Governments with programs of inclusivity promotion, rule of law, and corruption reduction have a better performance in sustainable development (Celik & Kostekci, 2025). In developing countries, capacity of local regencies and the decentralization quality also determine the progress of sustainable development (Boguszewski et al., 2024).

Even though previous research has analyzed the critical factor of institutions, the conditions under which a president engages in lawmaking related to sustainable development remain under-researched. Researching this gap is crucial, given United Nations as the initiator and agreed by 193 countries around the world try to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, state government through its policy making has crucial role to ensure that the goals are able to be achieved. This study attempts to address this research gap by conducting analysis on the Philippines' policy making within producing executive orders as the president's unilateral power in law making.

Law productions in countries with parliamentary system differ from countries with presidential system, due to the chief of executive is elected by the members of parliament in the parliamentary system while in the presidentialism system, chief of executive is elected by the people(Bräuninger et al., 2017). Presidentialism system limits the authority of executive head in

making a law to enact a policy (Bersch et al., 2017). The power of executive head in making a law in this regard is by issuing executive orders (Fine & Warber, 2012; Rudalevige, 2012).

But to what extent does political dynamics within the government cabinet determine the issuance of executive orders related with the sustainable development is never answered empirically. Thus, research question in this study is under what conditions do the Philippines president issue executive orders related with the sustainable development.

Answering this question is urgent and significant, in which this research will provide the explanation of the effect of government dynamics sourced from cabinet size and cabinet coalescence to determine the issuance of executive orders on topics related sustainable development. This can help to improve the intervention of sustainable development progress in the future which shows that how the political dynamics within government cabinet also determine the sustainable development through the issuance of executive orders. Given, executive orders are able to deliver negative effect if political actors have certain interests for the targeted people (Protsyk, 2004; Remington, 2014; Dressel & Bonoan, 2019), otherwise, the executive orders are also able to solve social problems (Tzoumis et al., 2015; Dressel & Bonoan, 2024).

This study has two goals, namely first this study aims to analyze the Philippines' government dynamics within the process of making executive orders from 1946 to 2025. Second, this study aims to show other faces of the law-making related sustainable development made a president which do not rely on sustainable development considerations, but on political considerations within the dynamics of government cabinet.

Researching this topic is crucial for the development topics of executive legislative relations and presidential power in the region. In the region, study about under what conditions do the Philippines president issue executive orders related with the sustainable development will be the first empirical evidence. Literature on relations between legislative and executive powers have developed in Asia, namely the power relations structure and the source of power out of constitutional arrangement in South Korea, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Philippines (Abueva, 2002; de Dios, 2002; Lee, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c; Matsumoto, 2013; Slater, 2018). However, these existing literatures have not analyzed under what conditions presidents issue executive orders vis-à-vis executive legislative relations related with sustainable development.

This study argues that conducting research on the executive orders issuance dynamics is crucial to knowledge development of relations of executive and legislature in Asia especially in this study site in Southeast Asia, in the Philippines. The executive orders issuance by the president is not in vacuum situation. Therefore, this study will add significant knowledge toward the progress of sustainable development through the law making side of executive orders issuance.

This study also will contribute to the research gap of the effect of executive orders toward social life which have developed in other regions, especially in the United States, which mostly dominated by unilateral action theory and delegation theory. Unilateral action theory argues that executive orders are the instrument owned by the presidents to bypass legislature which are not cooperative, thus the presidents' policy can be implemented unilaterally (Bolton & Thrower, 2016; Chiou & Rothenberg, 2014; Fine & Warber, 2012; Mayer, 1999; Pereira et al., 2005; Tzoumis et al., 2015). Meanwhile, delegation theory argues that the presidents use executive orders to implement their policy if the presidents are under positive political conditions, namely when the legislature support and public support are on their side (Lee, 2024b; Pereira et al., 2005; Christenson & Kriner, 2019; Reeves & Rogowski, 2015; Mayer & Price, 2002). Even though executive orders topic have well

developed in this region, but the literatures have not connected yet with sustainable development, thus this study will add a new knowledge on this aspect.

Reasons appoint the Philippines as a research locus are that first, the president has proactive type of constitutional power over legislation through the power of issuing executive orders (Lee, 2024b). This power is able to create implementation and interpretation of the legislations (Mayer, 1999; Pereira et al., 2005). Second, non-democracy era occurred from 1946 to 1986 and democracy era occurred from 1986 to today, so creating data of long time series. Third, these data give various styles of presidency and legislative executive relations. Fourth, this study is able to borrow the lessons of theories from the presidency studies of the United States, because several similarities exist even though the system of semi presidentialism occur in the Philippines from 1973 to 1986 (Lee, 2024b). Fifth, multiparty system weakly institutionalized and combined with patronage shape the Philippines presidentialism (Fionna & Tomsa, 2020; Teehankee, 2020).

In light of the development, this study argues that the unilateral action theory and delegation theory will not be suitable to explain the context of executive orders related with sustainable development in the Philippines. The argument of cabinet structure will be suitable to explain the Philippines case as this cabinet structure have a significant role in establishing the number and frequency of the executive orders issuance. Cabinet structure theory argues that the political dynamics within the government decision relies on the condition of the cabinet coalescence and cabinet size (Neto, 2000; Pereira et al., 2005). Cabinet coalescence measures the percentage comparison of legislature seat quantity owned by political parties' coalition toward the quantity percentage of those political parties coalition's ministers in the government cabinet. Thus, the high value of the cabinet coalescence means that the legislature will not oppose the president's executive orders issuance related with sustainable development, and otherwise the low value of the cabinet coalescence means that the opposing legislature toward the president's executive orders related with sustainable development will take a place. Cabinet size is the size in legislature of the political parties' coalition, namely the percentage of seats owned by the cabinet ministries' political party. Thus, the bigger the value of cabinet size, the president will not obtain legislature opposition toward the president's executive orders issuance related with sustainable development, and otherwise, the lower the value of cabinet size, the president will obtain legislature opposition toward the president's executive orders issuance related with sustainable development.

Based on these conceptual and theoretical constructions, to answer the research question of under what conditions do the Philippines president issue executive orders related with the sustainable development, the hypothesis put forward is that conditions of the Philippines president in issuing executive orders related with the sustainable development depends on the cabinet size and cabinet coalescence. The bigger value of the cabinet size and the higher value of the cabinet coalescence, the presidents will issue fewer executive orders related sustainable development. The higher cabinet coalescence and the bigger cabinet size show that the president has control toward the legislative branch by exercising coercion, populist appeal, and patronage, as in the Philippines literature these factors work. Given, the Philippines presidents have big power due to the presidents' power in using populist appeal, coercion, and patronage (Cox, 1988). State policy intervention toward sustainable development can be accommodated by the legislature easier, thus the presidents do not need exercise their unilateral power in law making through executive orders.

Research Methods

Data used in this research is secondary data from the official gazette of the Philippines. This study only includes executive orders related with sustainable development after the Philippines' independence in 1946, namely from 2025 to 1946 the presidents issued 5357 executive orders. Due to large number of population size, this study used quantitative method with Ordinary Least Square regression analysis.

This study implements several tests to determine whether the data is suitable for Ordinary Least Square regression analysis on the time series data, namely stationarity test using augmented dickey-fuller test, no autocorrelation test using Durbin Watson test and Breusch Godfrey LM test, homoscedasticity test using Breusch Pagan test, no multicollinearity test using variance inflation factor, no endogeneity test using Durbin Wu Hausman test, and correct model specification.

To ensure the correct model specifications to prevent no omitted variables and no unnecessary variables which occur, this study include relevant control variables with the dependent variable and independent variables. The dependent variable is the number of executive orders issued by the presidents per month from the early 1946 until the end of 2025 sourced from the official gazette of the Philippines. Cabinet coalescence and cabinet size become the two independent variables. Archival government of the Philippines and the literatures become the sources of the data of independent variables. The construction of this longitudinal data is that, first, this study collects the data of cabinet composition mainly using the Philippines' presidential communication office and the official gazette of the Philippines. This study complements these two main sources with academic literatures. Second, this study identifies this data set by classifying the cabinet size and the percentage of political parties' coalition in ministerial government cabinet and percentage of political parties' coalition in legislature seats. Third, this study transforms this classified data set into monthly structure to align with the dependent variable.

The control variables are the end and the first year of the period of each presidency, international crisis and pandemic condition as the control variable for external shocks, and internal condition of the Philippines' economy which depends on the growth of economy and the data of inflation sourced from the World Bank's data (World Bank, 2026). This study adds additional control variables such as first, regime of the state which captures 0 for the semi presidentialism regime and 1 for the presidentialism regime periods. Second, the quality of democracy in which the data come from varieties of democracy (V-Dem; Coppedge et al., 2026) consisting from 0 to 1 with measurement of democracy such as electoral competitiveness for measurement of electoral democracy, civil liberties for liberal democracy measurement, civic engagement for participatory democracy measurement, public reasoning for deliberative democracy measurement, and equality in political sphere for egalitarian democracy measurement.

Results and Discussion

Figure 1 presents the data of 5357 executive orders in the Philippines from 1946 to 2025. The Figure shows that the sharp rise and subsequent drop-off exist from 1984 to 1988, while from 2020 to 2021, from 2003 to 2020, and from 1998 to 2000, several surges exist. In the non democracy era, the Philippines presidents issue fewer executive orders than the Philippines presidents in the democracy era.

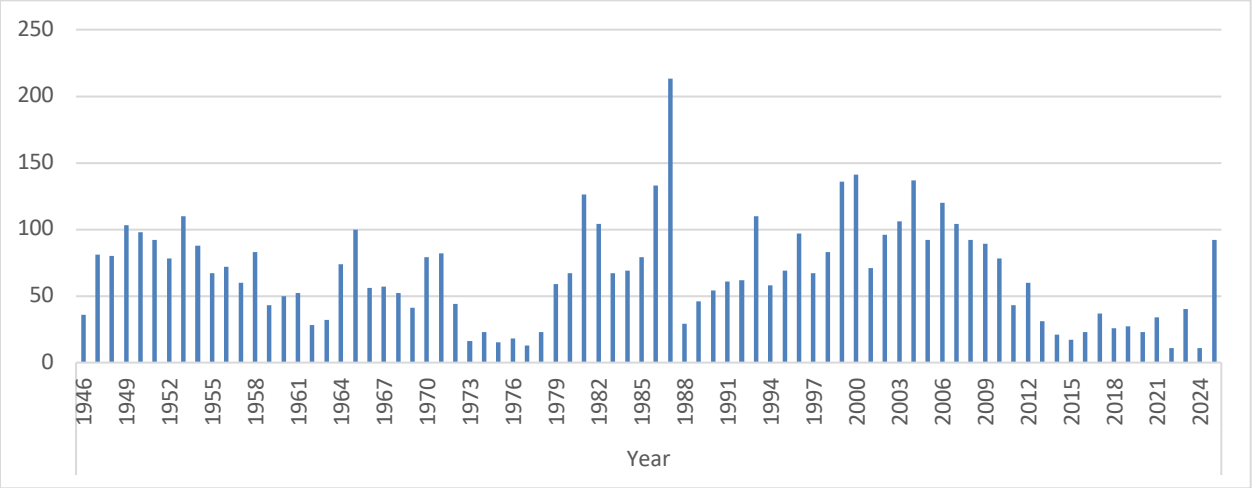


Figure 1. Executive orders in the Philippines. Source: The official gazette of the Philippines, 2026

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the control variables, independent variables, and dependent variable. The cabinet size average of the Philippines from 1946 to 2025 is 25 which is relatively large with moderate variation. The mean of the cabinet coalescence is 0.4 or semi stable coalition as the coalition pattern not fully proportional. Medium level value occurs for the democracy quality across its indicators, while presidential system dominates the regime of the state. The average of inflation and economic growth shows big volatility and positive. These descriptive statistics on the Table 1 represents throughout the periods of observation that the dynamics of the Philippines' executive orders issuance related with sustainable development exist in the sphere of the substantial support of the legislature, cabinet coalescence which does not completely consolidate, and the conditions of economy and democracy which diverse.

The tests results as the requirement to conduct Ordinary Least Square regression analysis on the time series data are as follows. The value of the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test is 0.241 which means that the data are stationary. Similarly, the value of Durbin Watson test is 2.001 and the value of Breusch Godfrey LM test is 0.371 which means that the data do not have autocorrelation. The value of Breusch Pagan test is 0.185 which means that homoscedasticity exists. Furthermore, the value of variance inflation factor is 1 which means that the regression coefficient has no multicollinearity. Finally, the value of Durbin Wu Hausman test is 0.155 which means that endogeneity does not exist. Based on the several tests as required to conduct Ordinary Least Square regression analysis on the time series data, the results meet all required stipulations to proceed for the Ordinary Least Square regression.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

Independent, dependent, and control variables	**Mean**	**Deviation**	**Min.**	**Max.**
Cabinet size	25	6.57	22	32
Cabinet Coalescence	0.4	0.14	0.3	0.6
First and end of year of presidency period	0.674	0.27	0	1
External shocks	0.343	0.19	0	1
Democracy quality Electoral quality	0.313	0.131	0.078	0.589

Liberal quality	0.298	0.177	0.037	0.444
Participatory quality	0.265	0.157	0.106	0.406
Deliberative quality	0.379	0.183	0.080	0.528
Egalitarian quality	0.135	0.112	0.053	0.312
State regime	0.764	0.054	0	1
Economic growth	4.3	1.9	-9.5	8.8
Inflation	8.17	3.67	-1.64	62.83

Source: Processed by authors, 2026.

Table 2 presents the Ordinary Least Square regression analysis which tests to what extent the cabinet coalescence and cabinet size influence the frequency of the issuance of the executive orders related with sustainable development in the Philippines from 1946 to 2025. There are two models, namely model 1 is the baseline model which includes independent variables and dependent variable, and model 2 is a model which tests all variables including independent variables, dependent variable, and control variables, such as the end and early presidentialism period, the quality of democracy including all varieties democracy indicators, regime of the state, inflation, and the growth of economy as the political, institutional, and economic variables. Model 1 and model 2 show strong to moderate fit. The value of R^2 in model 1 is 0.378, this value means that 37.8 percent approximately of the variation in monthly issuances of the executive orders related with sustainable development is able to be explained by cabinet coalescence and cabinet size. The value of R^2 then increases in model 2 when the control variables are included which is 0.441, in which this value means that explanatory power of the model is improved. The value of adjusted R^2 from model 1 to model 2 also represents improvement, even though with variation which means that the relationship complexity occurs between executive behavior and political dynamics across state regimes and over time from 1946 to 2025.

Table 2: The Effect of Cabinet Size and Cabinet Coalescence on Executive Orders Issuance

	Executive orders issuance	
Independent, dependent, and control variables	**(Model 1)**	**(Model 2)**
Cabinet size	24.324***	21.787***
Cabinet Coalescence	0.398***	0.291***
First and end of year of presidency period		0.574*
External shocks		0.343
Democracy quality		
Electoral quality		0.378
Liberal quality		0.421
Participatory quality		0.176
Deliberative quality		0.641
Egalitarian quality		0.32
State regime		0.674
Economic growth		7.63
Inflation		7.18
Constant	8.812**	28.771
N	240	240
R^2	0.378	0.441

Adjusted R^2	0.314	0.527

*** p < 0.01, ** p < 0.05, * p < 0.1, two-tailed test, standard errors in parentheses.
Source: Processed by authors, 2026.

Based on the results of the Table 2, the effect of cabinet size in model 1 and model 2 is statistically significant and positive coefficient. The coefficient value in model 2 is 21.787 with p less than 0.01 for the statistically significant value. This coefficient value is lower than coefficient value in the model 1 which is 24.324 with p less than 0.01 for the statistically significant value. This result shows that one unit increase in the cabinet size, in which this study defines it as an increase in the legislative seats proportion owned by political parties in cabinet, causes the one unit increase in the frequency of executive orders issuance related sustainable development per month.

The effect of cabinet coalescence in model 1 and model 2 is also statistically significant and positive coefficient. The coefficient value in model 2 is 0.291 with p less than 0.01 for the statistically significant value, this coefficient value is lower than coefficient value in the model 1 which is 0.398 with p less than 0.01 for the statistically significant value. This result shows that one unit increase in the cabinet coalescence, in which this study defines it as the results between the proportion of the legislative seats owned by the coalition political parties and the ministries proportion owned by the political parties in the government cabinet, an increase in the legislative seats proportion owned by political parties in cabinet, causes the one unit increase in the frequency of executive orders issuance related sustainable development per month.

The value of control variables included in Model 2 shows various results. The coefficient value of the control variable of the end and beginning of the presidentialism period is significant with p less than 0.1 and positive in 0.574. Similarly, the coefficient value of the control variable of external shocks namely international economic crisis and pandemics is 0.343 and positive, however this control variable is not significant. Even though crises condition has connections toward the government responses, the statistical findings of this study show that over the long periods, issuance variation of executive orders related with sustainable development in the Philippines is shaped by domestic dynamics of political government factors than international shock factors per se. Furthermore, the coefficient value of the five indicators of the democracy quality which consist of electoral, participatory, liberal, deliberative, and egalitarian democracy show positive and not significant statistically. This statistical finding means that democracy quality variation does not have a consistent influence toward the variation of the issuance of the Philippines' executive orders related with sustainable development. Similarly, the coefficient value of type of the state regime which is semi presidential and presidential regimes is not significant statistically and positive in 0.674. This result means that different designs of the regime institution cannot explain the different frequency of issuing executive orders related with sustainable development than political government factors. Finally, the coefficient value of the control variables of inflation and economic growth is not significant statistically and positive.

These empirical and statistical findings confirms that executive orders issuance related with sustainable development in the Philippines is dynamic. This dynamics do not rely on the personal preferences of the Philippines's presidents, rather this dynamic is shaped by government configurations, especially the structure of cabinet within the ministerial government arena and within the legislature arena.

This result shows different results from the hypothesis, which argued that the bigger the size of the government cabinet, the fewer frequency of the Philippines presidents publish executive orders related with sustainable development. The hypothesis come from the cabinet structure theory

assumption (Neto, 2000), which stresses that in presidentialism countries the presidents who have high support from the legislature through big coalition in the government cabinet will obtain fewer incentive to enact law making unilaterally. But, the empirical result of this study presents the contrary findings, where the presidents in the Philippines are more active in publishing executive orders related with sustainable development when they have large size of the political coalition in the government cabinet. In addition, the more equal distribution of the ministerial number within the government cabinet with the legislative seat number owned by the political parties of the presidents' coalition, the presidents issue more frequently the executive orders related sustainable development. This finding has enriched the knowledge about the patterns of executive orders related with sustainable development in the multi political parties system under presidentialism country which experience large patronage practices.

The cabinet coalescence represents the president's coalition is stable, however not necessarily cohesive in ideology alignment. In the context of the Philippines, the stability of coalition building is transactional, in which the presidents' executive orders related sustainable development tend to not obtain opposition when the position distribution of ministries align with the number of seats owned by political parties' coalition within the legislature arena. Therefore, the executive orders do not aim to create a conflict tool, rather the executive orders have a role as a coordination instrument and implementation tool for sustainable development policy under coalition management system built by the rampant patronage network.

These all empirical and statistical results have crucial implications for the theories and concepts of the sustainable development and executive orders as the president power in law making. The presidents of the Philippines issue executive orders related with sustainable development under the conditions of cabinet size and cabinet coalescence, in which this differs with previous studies which rely on sustainable development considerations. Evidence from the previous studies argues that the factors determine sustainable development are inclusive economic growth (Holum & Jakobsen, 2024), digital innovation and technological development (Varriale et al., 2025), natural resource management with protection (Al-Humaiqani & Al-Ghamdi, 2022; O'Brien et al., 2012), social and economic inclusion (Ferdous & Eslamian, 2026), inclusive human development (Asongu & Odhiambo, 2019), sustainable infrastructure management (Daoud et al., 2025), and public awareness development (Crotty & Hall, 2014; Özmen, 2025). However, statistical analysis from this study has presented new empirical evidence that political considerations within the dynamics of government cabinet are the key to determine the issuance of executive orders related with sustainable development.

Beside of different results from the most previous studies, this study results also support the existing literature which argues that governance becomes the central factor, in which robust countries' institutions will perform better on each sustainable development goal than weak countries' institutions (Celik & Kostekci, 2025; Megerssa et al., 2025; Ugwoke et al., 2026). Robust governance in this study comes from how the president is able to create a stable coalition in ministry cabinet and in parliament arena through the ruling political party. This new insight underlines that a power in law making through issuing executive order occurs within institution nuance especially law making under country with presidentialism realm.

The pattern of the issuance of executive orders related with sustainable development in the Philippines cannot be understood by the existing literatures which divide presidential power in law making to be two spectrums, namely between delegation theory and unilateral action theory. Given, both theories operate under situation of two political parties with programmatic politics in the US rather than multi political parties with patronage politics such as the Philippines. The Philippines

context shift the discussion of executive issuance from high or low supports of the legislature branches do not necessarily prevent the issuance of executive orders related with sustainable development, to the discussion about coalition management and a positive environment of the government to enact the law making for implementing a policy through executive orders. This means that the Philippines presidents' issue executive orders related sustainable development not to circumvent opposing legislature, however the presidents issue the executive orders as a tool for efficient mechanism of the policy execution namely when the legislature will not seriously fight the presidents' law making.

Thus, the Philippines context under multi political parties with patronage politics demands the management of coalition and resource distribution than the conflict of institutions within divided or unified government offered by the context of delegation and unilateral action theory context. This construction aligns with the political and presidentialism system of the Philippines and the characteristics of patronage practices. The resource distribution and positions of the cabinet under patronage politics become the key tool for obtaining the legislative support, rather than programmatic and ideological positions. In this condition, the Philippines presidents have a flexible tool for executing policy rapidly. Accordingly, rather than as an instrument for institutional conflict between executive and legislature, the executive orders have a function as a tool for policy implementation on sustainable development. The big cabinet size and the high cabinet coalescence shape the conditions within the political government which push the presidents to exercise their power in law making. In this regard, executive orders issuance related with sustainable development represent the power of president sourced from formal support of the political coalitions.

The statistical and empirical results of this study also add significant new knowledge to the comparative literature about sustainable development and power within presidentialism system out of the United States. The findings point out that the existing arguments from the United States practices of executive orders issuance namely unilateral government action and opposing relationship between the legislature and the executive do not necessarily automatically occur for the executive orders issuance related with sustainable development into the countries in the Global South especially Southeast Asia, the Philippines, multi political parties system with robust patronage practices to construct cabinet coalition in the government and in the legislature. Therefore, this study stresses the context based approach to understanding the power of presidents in law making through executive orders. This study findings show that executive orders owned by the presidents will not be able to be understood only as institutional conflict but also need to be conceived as the strategy within political government in structuring patronage, legitimacy, and coalitions building in weak institutionalized system.

Findings in this study contributes to implications in theoretical, practical, and policy aspects. First, the implication contributes theoretically on academic literatures within coalition management by challenging the established theory of delegation and unilateral action. The dominant assumptions on such theory point out that high support from parliament toward president cause less issuance on executive orders. However, in the Philippines context, cabinet coalescence and cabinet size are related with more issuances in executive orders in the topics on sustainable development. This indicates that executive orders which are identic as the tool to bypass or to substitutes in legislation do not occur. Instead, they function as tools in policy implementation in the realm of political coalition, under multi political parties system with high patronage practices.

Moreover, theoretical implication based on this finding is literature extension on comparative presidentialism which is context based. Established theories on delegation and unilateral action are dominant in the US context which has two political parties system with programmatic politics. These

dominant theories do not clarify the patterns of executive within multi political parties system with high patronage politics such as the Philippines. Policy making through issuing executive orders in this country is better explained using coalition management which considering the size and the proportion of seats in ministries and parliament. Accordingly, this study's contribution toward comparative presidentialism literature is by stressing that power owned by the executive in legislation needs to be understood under which conditions coalition in government are created and preserved.

Furthermore, on the literature of sustainable development, this study's contribution is on introduction of political arrangements within the legislative and executive branches as the crucial factor of the implementation of sustainable development policy. Existing literatures have focused on the key variables on supporting sustainable development on the quality of institution, innovation in technology, economic growth, social inclusion, and management of natural resources. This study's finding points out that political configuration built within coalition composition and cabinet stability has a crucial role in determine the capacity of government in executive orders issuance related with sustainable development. This enlarges the current literatures by adding new perspective on the dynamics of government coalition as a mechanism in enhancing sustainable development policy.

Second, findings in this study offer implications in practices for cabinet maker and chief of government. The findings point out that policies on sustainable development which will be successful are subject to not only policy design but also configuration of government coalition. Presidents in the countries adopting multi political parties system need to acknowledge that formation of cabinet coalition constitutes strategic instrument in governing sustainable development rather than only focusing on sharing mechanism-based political reward. Government cabinet which has comprehensive representation in parliament and keeps proportional number of ministerial portfolios causes favourable realm in politics for efficient policy implementation.

Moreover, administrators in executive side can benefit from robust coordination among president's coalition in government ministries and in parliament. Given, cabinet coalescence means proportion between allocation of ministry seats and parliament seats owned by political parties, higher coherence in cabinet coalescence will decrease uncertainty in political side during the implementation of sustainable development policy. Accordingly, coordination between political parties, government ministries, and bureaucracy is to be strategic tools for enhancing the initiatives of sustainable development policies and avoiding unnecessary conflict in political processes.

Third, findings in this study provide evidence-based policymaking implications in the democratic countries with presidentialism system with multi political parties system. Policymakers need to acknowledge that design of cabinet coalition shapes the capacity of implementing the agenda of sustainable development. Therefore, to reinforce the implementation of sustainable development needs broaden out of enhancing sectoral policies, and incorporates institutional reforms which improve the stability of political coalitions and coordination between legislative and executive.

This study, however, acknowledges that the main limitation of this study is the generalizability, in which these findings will not be able to be implemented in other presidentialism countries with multiparty system which have power to issuing executive order. Therefore, the future research needs to compare the similar condition of presidential dynamics under patronage and multi political party system and tests the consequences of the exercise of the president power in legislation through executive orders related with sustainable development on other institutional and political dynamics. In addition, this study suggests practical implications on enhancing sustainable development in the Philippines, in which each president and the ruling political party need to ensure that the proportion

of ministry seat of a political party is equal with the proportion of parliament seat of such political party. Each president and the ruling political party also need to increase the cabinet size, as executive orders issuance on sustainable development in the Philippines context is not about institutional conflict such as two political parties system rather coalition management under multi political parties system.

Conclusion

This study aims to answer the research question of under what conditions do the Philippines president issue executive orders related with the sustainable development. By using Ordinary Least Square regression analysis toward the Philippines' 5357 executive orders, the empirical and statistical results of this study show that the executive orders related with sustainable development in the Philippines is determined by cabinet coalition dynamics, especially cabinet coalescence and cabinet size. The empirical and statistical results of this study point out the effect of both cabinet coalition variables are positive and significant, in which this is the opposite of the hypothesis based on the existing literature which assumes the relationship between legislature support and the executive orders issuance is negative. Under sustainable development context, the higher level of cabinet coalescence which represents a more equal distribution of the positions of ministries for the presidents' coalition based on the number of seats owned by the coalition in the legislature arena, and the bigger cabinet size which represents big number of political parties support in the legislature arena, then the more the presidents of the Philippines issue executive orders related with sustainable development.

By using cabinet coalition as the main variable, this study results broaden the knowledge of under which conditions the presidential power in legislation through executive orders is used on topics of sustainable development. The presidentialism theory and concepts tend to stress on the divided government and unified government under unilateral action theory and delegation theory as a conceptual and theoretical framework which is suitable for the United States context with its two political parties system. But, this study's empirical and statistical findings argues that the conceptual and theoretical framework sourced from the United States' context is not suitable to understand the dynamics of the relations between legislature and executive in the Philippines, given this country has different characteristics with the United States, namely the Philippines uses multi political parties system, political parties are weakly institutionalized, fragmentation of the political party occurs, patronage practices are dominant which control the legislature support. In the Philippines context, the presidents are able to obtain large support from the legislature and continue to exercise the executive orders related with sustainable development intensively.

This study's empirical and statistical findings confirms that the analysis of the executive orders issuance related with sustainable development in the Philippines context represent a crucial analytical window to the new knowledge of the relations between legislature and executive in the presidentialism system under multi political party. These findings suggest practical implications on enhancing sustainable development in the Philippines by ensuring the proportion of ministry seat of a political party is equal with the proportion of parliament seat of such political party and by increasing the cabinet size. Limitation of this study is that this study has not yet statistically measure the effect of the executive orders issuance towards the increase or decrease of the value of the sustainable development in the Philippines. Therefore, this study suggests the future research directions needs to conduct this research area.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Assisted Technology

The authors declare that no artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the preparation, analysis, or writing of this manuscript. All aspects of the research, including data collection, interpretation, and manuscript preparation, were carried out entirely by the authors without the assistance of AI-based technologies.

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