

Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV, #5

Former Senator

as of Feb. 5, 2025



Age and date of birth: 47 (May 7, 1977)

Party: Katipunan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (Chairman)

Highest Educational Attainment: Harvard University Executive Education Program on Public Policy and Leadership (December 2008).

Highest Government Position Held: Senator

Summary:

Aquino presents himself as a candidate for the people, focusing on inflation and education. He vows to expose cartels to lower prices, and boost funding for education to improve the quality of teaching in the country and access to technology in schools, as well as build stronger infrastructure.

Stance on Key Issues

On Poverty, Controlling Inflation and Jobs

- Vows to go after cartels in the importation sector and eliminate red tape in the country's ports to help lower the prices of goods
- Plans to amend the Rice Tariffication Law to be more effective in lowering market prices without hurting the income and production of local farmers
- Pushes for increasing the budget of the education sector and ensuring funds are properly utilized to address gaps in the curriculum, technology and infrastructure and reforming the K-12 law to make senior high school graduates more employable

On Fighting Graft and Corruption

- Favors the ban on offshore gaming operations which he considers a national security concern
- Pushes for a clear approach in combating corruption in government
- Seeks to refile the anti-political dynasty bill, saying that concentration of power in a few families is counterintuitive to democracy

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Stance on Key Issues

On West Philippine Sea

- Agrees with the administration’s policies on the West Philippine Sea, including the so-called “assertive transparency initiative” or making public China’s aggressive acts in the disputed area
- Does not think the country has been pivoting too much towards the United States, believing more can be gained from the country’s long-time ally especially in terms of obtaining defense equipment

On The Drug War

- Says those responsible for extrajudicial killings during the drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte must be brought to justice
- Agrees that Duterte must face the charges against him in the International Criminal Court but it is more important that he be tried by Philippine courts

On Disaster-preparedness

- Calls for intensifying disaster preparedness not just against typhoons and flooding but also extreme heat, stressing that the climate crisis is a health crisis
- Says the country needs climate change laws that also address disaster rehabilitation to help people and communities rebuild homes and infrastructure after calamities

Government Experience/Field of Expertise

- Senator (2013 – 2019)
 - Served as chairperson of various committees such as science and technology; education, culture and arts; trade, commerce, and entrepreneurship; and youth.
 - Principal sponsor and co-author of RA 10931 (Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act) which institutionalized free tuition and other school fees in state and local universities and colleges.
 - Principally authored and sponsored RA 10644 (Go Negosyo Act), promoting ease of doing business for micro, small and medium enterprises through Negosyo Centers established nationwide.
 - Filed an anti-political dynasty bill in 2018 that stalled in second reading.
- Chairman and Chief Executive Officer - National Youth Commission (2003 – 2006)
- Commissioner-at-Large - National Youth Commission (2001 – 2003)

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Issues and Controversies

- Faced sedition, cyber libel, libel and obstruction of justice complaints in 2019 for a video series linking former president Rodrigo Duterte to the illegal drug trade but was cleared of all charges in 2020
- Linked to the Maute group’s terrorist attacks in Marawi City in 2017 by former justice secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II, who later retracted his allegations

Family Members in Government

Paul Aquino

- Relationship: Father
- Position/s held:
 - President and chief executive officer, Energy Development Corporation (2004 - 2010)

Servillano “Mianong” Aquino

- Relationship: Great-Grandfather
- Position/s held:
 - Delegate for Samar, Malolos Congress (1898 - 1899)

Benigno Aquino Sr.

- Relationship: Grandfather
- Position/s held:
 - Representative- Tarlac, second district (1919 - 1928; 1945 - 1946)
 - Speaker- National Assembly, Tarlac-at-large (1943 - 1944)
 - Commissioner of the Interior - Philippine Executive Commission (1942)

Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr.

- Relationship: Uncle
- Position/s held:
 - Senator (1967 - 1972)
 - Governor, Tarlac (1961 - 1967)
 - Vice Governor, Tarlac (1959 - 1961)
 - Mayor, Concepcion, Tarlac (1955 - 1959)
 - Presidential adviser on defense affairs (1949 - 1954)

Agapito “Butz” Aquino

- Relationship: Uncle
- Position/s held:
 - Representative, Makati City - second district (1998 - 2007)
 - Deputy speaker, House of Representatives (2000 - 2001)
 - Senator (1987 - 1995)

Jesli Aquino Lapus

- Relationship: Uncle
- Position/s held:
 - Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (March - June 2010)
 - Secretary, Department of Education (August 2006 - March 2010)
 - Representative, Tarlac-third district (1998 - 2006)
 - Undersecretary - Department of Agrarian Reform (1987 - 1989)

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Family Members in Government

Corazon “Cory” Cojuangco-Aquino

- Relationship: Aunt
- Position/s held:
 - President (1986 - 1992)

Maria Teresa “Tessie” Aquino-Oreta

- Relationship: Aunt
- Position/s held:
 - Senator (1998 - 2004)
 - Representative - Malabon-Navotas, lone district (1987 - 1998)

Herminio Aquino

- Relationship: Great-uncle
- Position/s held:
 - Vice Governor - Tarlac (1998 - 2001)
 - Representative - Tarlac, third district (1987 - 1998)
 - Minister - Ministry of Human Settlements (1986 - 1987)

Benigno Simeon “Noy” Aquino III

- Relationship: Cousin
- Position/s held:
 - President (2010 - 2016)
 - Senator (2007 - 2010)
 - Representative- Tarlac, second district (1998 - 2007)
 - Deputy Speaker - House of Representatives (2004 - 2006)

Antolin “Lenlen” Oreta III

- Relationship: Cousin
- Position/s held:
 - Mayor - Malabon City (2012 - 2022)
 - Vice Mayor - Malabon City (2010 - 2012)
 - Councilor - Malabon City (2007 - 2010)

Jose Lorenzo “Enzo” Oreta

- Relationship: Cousin
- Position/s held:
 - Councilor - Malabon City (2016 - 2022)