

# Erwin Tulfo, #63

Representative, ACT-CIS party list

as of Feb. 5, 2025



**Age and date of birth:** 61 (Aug. 10, 1963)

**Party:** Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD)

**Highest Educational Attainment:** Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-Special Degree program, University of the East

**Highest Government Position Held:** Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

### Summary:

Frontrunner Tulfo vows to continue the Marcos administration's platforms in addressing poverty, inflation and unemployment; seeks to improve PhilHealth services and provide better benefits for senior citizens and solo parents.

## Stance on Key Issues

### On Poverty, Controlling Inflation and Jobs

- Pledges to lower the price of food
- Plans to revive the DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program, a capacity-building program that grants business capital and offers vocational classes to indigents
- Wants to offer benefits for the middle class, push for higher wages, and provide retirement benefits for private-sector workers

### On Fighting Graft and Corruption

- Believes political dynasties are acceptable in government, citing the absence of a law prohibiting it; prefers to leave the choice to the voters
- Supports driving out illegal Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs)
- Believes in penalizing local government officials who practice discrimination or favoritism in giving out cash and relief assistance or 'ayuda'

### On West Philippine Sea

- Suggests bringing up China's unlawful actions in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) before the United National General Assembly
- Believes the Marcos administration should accept U.S. offer to escort future resupply missions of the Philippine Coast Guard to BRP Sierra Madre in the WPS

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## Stance on Key Issues

### On The Drug War

- Believes a review of the pros and cons of rejoining the International Criminal Court (ICC) is necessary
- Has questioned the jurisdiction of the ICC over the Duterte drug war probe

### On Disaster-preparedness

- Pushes for the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience and for the ease of issuing permits for housing and resettlement projects in disaster-affected areas

## Government Experience/Field of Expertise

- Representative - Anti-Crime and Terrorism Community Involvement and Support (ACT-CIS) Party-list (2022 - present); Deputy Majority Leader, 19th Congress
- Secretary - Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) (June 30 - Dec. 27, 2022)

## Issues and Controversies

- Faced identity fraud allegations and admitted he was an undocumented worker in the U.S. in the 80s; reported to have acquired American citizenship fraudulently in 1988 and renounced it in 2022 following his appointment as Social Welfare secretary
- Appointment as secretary of DSWD was bypassed twice due to his citizenship issues and libel conviction
- In 2018, the Senate investigated Tulfo and his brother Ben and sister Wanda (then tourism secretary) after the Commission of Audit cited the lack of a memorandum of agreement and conflict of interest in a P120 million advertising deal between the Department of Tourism and the Philippines Television Network 4 (PTV 4)'s show Kilos Pronto, a program hosted by Tulfo and produced by his brother, Ben; the Ombudsman found no graft in the deal in 2021.
- Convicted of four counts of libel in 2008 for publishing four columns accusing a Bureau of Customs official of corruption
- Declared 'persona non grata' in 2019 by the Philippine Military Academy alumni for insulting former DSWD chief Rolando Bautista, a retired Army lieutenant general, after the latter declined a live interview on Tulfo's program
- Drew heavy criticism for interfering in negotiations between police and hostage-taker Rolando Mendoza during the 2010 Manila hostage crisis that resulted in the death of nine people, including seven tourists from Hong Kong

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## Family Members in Government

### Ramon S. Tulfo Sr.

- Relationship: Father
- Position/s held:
  - Colonel, Philippine Constabulary (1940s to 1970)

### Wanda Corazon Tulfo-Teo

- Relationship: Sister
- Position/s held:
  - Secretary - Department of Tourism (2016 - 2018)

### Jocelyn Pua Tulfo

- Relationship: Sister-in-law
- Position/s held:
  - Representative - Anti-Crime and Terrorism Community Involvement and Support (ACT-CIS) Party-list (2019 - present)

### Ralph Wendel Tulfo

- Relationship: Nephew
- Position/s held:
  - Representative - Quezon City, second district (2022 - present)

### Ramon Tulfo

- Relationship: Brother
- Position/s held:
  - Special Envoy for Public Diplomacy to China (October 2018 - October 2019)

### Raffy Tulfo

- Relationship: Brother
- Position/s held:
  - Senator (2022 - present)

### Roberto Teo

- Relationship: Brother-in-law
- Position/s held:
  - Positions held: Director - Travel and Tours Services Sector, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (2014 - 2018)