

Vicente “Tito” Sotto III, #59

Former Senate President

as of Feb. 5, 2025



Age and date of birth: 76 (Aug. 24, 1948)

Party: Nationalist People’s Coalition

Highest Educational Attainment: A.B. English, Colegio de San Juan de Letran

Highest Government Position Held: Senator

Summary:

With his experience in legislative work, Sotto wants a Senate return to scrutinize the national government budget. He pushes for the rightsizing of the bureaucracy and the creation of a presidential drug enforcement authority. He also wants to pass laws to address “fake news.”

Stance on Key Issues

On Poverty, Controlling Inflation and Jobs

- Advocates for agricultural modernization and an increase in the budget for the agricultural sector to spur economic growth; says the government must buy at least 50% of its output at farmgate prices

On Fighting Graft and Corruption

- Says there should be no confidential funds or, at least, these must be subject to audit; believes fighting corruption can be solved through internal cleansing and leading by example

On West Philippine Sea

- Suggest co-venture project with China in the WPS on a 60-40 arrangement from joint exploration in “our area,” with the bigger share going to the Philippines, and a 60-40 division in favor of China from explorations in “their area”

On The Drug War

- Says Duterte’s drug war was incomplete and suggests a holistic approach that focuses not only on enforcement and prosecution but also on prevention and rehabilitation

On Disaster-preparedness

- Underscores the need to review environmental laws, the guidelines and implementation at the local government level, particularly on preparations for typhoons

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Government Experience/Field of Expertise

- Senator (1992 - 2004; 2010 - 2022)
 - Senate president (2018 - 2022)
 - Authored and sponsored bills that have become laws such as:
 - RA 11469, Bayanihan We Heal as One Act
 - RA 11479, Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020
 - RA 11036, Mental Health Act of 2017
 - RA 11223, Universal Healthcare Act
 - RA 10640, Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002
 - RA 10361, Domestic Workers Act
 - RA 9262, Anti-violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004
- Chairman- Dangerous Drugs Board, Office of the President (July 2008 - November 2009)
- Vice Mayor- Quezon City (1988 - 1992)
 - Presiding Officer- Quezon City Council (1988 - 1992)
 - Chairman- Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (1988 – 1992)

Issues and Controversies

- Was sharply criticized In 2017 for saying that then social welfare secretary Judy Taguiwalo, a single mother to two daughters, was “na-ano lang” (just knocked up); later said it was a joke but his critics did not get it
- Faced an ethics complaint in 2012 for plagiarizing Sarah Pope and two other U.S. bloggers in a turno en contra speech against the reproductive health bill, a charge his staff admitted to
- Was also accused of plagiarism that same year for lifting portions of his speech opposing the reproductive health bill from a 1966 speech of U.S senator Robert F. Kennedy; Sotto admitted to translating those portions, refusing to consider it plagiarism. When Kennedy’s daughter Kerry demanded an apology, Sotto did so without owning up to the mistake.
- Described the Pepsi Paloma rape case as a “showbiz gimmick” and pointed to the late actress’ manager Rey Dela Cruz as the mastermind of the controversy

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Family Members in Government

Gian Carlo G. Sotto

- Relationship: Son
- Position/s held:
 - Vice Mayor- Quezon City (2019 - present)
 - Councilor- Quezon City, third district (2010 - 2019)

Dorielle Maria “Lala” Sotto-Antonio

- Relationship: Daughter
- Position/s held:
 - Chairperson- Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (2022 - present)
 - Councilor- Quezon City, sixth district (2013 - 2022)
 - Councilor- Quezon City, third district (2001 - 2010)

Valmar “Val” Sotto

- Relationship: Brother
- Position/s held:
 - Councilor- Parañaque, second district (2004 - 2013)

Victor Ma. Regis “Vico” Sotto

- Relationship: Nephew
- Position/s held:
 - Mayor- Pasig City (2019 - present)
 - Councilor- Pasig City, first district (2016 - 2019)

Viktor Eriko “Wahoo” M. Sotto

- Relationship: Nephew
- Position/s held:
 - Councilor- Parañaque, second district (2013 - 2022)

Nina Celine Sotto

- Relationship: Niece-in-law
- Position/s held:
 - Councilor- Parañaque, second district (2022 - 2025)

Cesar Sotto

- Relationship: Uncle
- Position/s held:
 - 2nd National Assembly (Commonwealth), Mindanao and Jolo (1939 - 1941)

Vicente Sotto

- Relationship: Grandfather
- Position/s held:
 - Senator (1946 - 1950)
 - 6th Philippine Legislature- Cebu, second district (1922 - 1925)
 - Councilor- Cebu (1902 - undetermined)

Filemon Sotto

- Relationship: Granduncle
- Position/s held:
 - Senator (1916 - 1922)
 - 3rd Philippine Legislature- Cebu Province, third district (1912 - 1916)
 - 2nd Philippine Legislature- Cebu, third district (1910 - 1912)
 - 1st Philippine Legislature- Cebu, third district (1907-1909)
 - Councilor- Cebu (1903 - undetermined)