



RULES OF THE HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

RULES OF THE HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
GOVERNING INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
IN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS**

**1987 CONSTITUTION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT
PRACTICES ACT**

**CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL
STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES**

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MESSAGE

I am privileged to present to you the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 19th Congress.

This is not merely a compilation of regulations and protocols; it is a tangible embodiment of our collective will and commitment to steward our nation towards a promising and prosperous future.

The road we traverse is challenging, yet it is vital to remember the weight of the responsibility we shoulder, for we are the chosen architects of our nation's destiny. Our actions within the hallowed walls of this institution will shape the lives of millions of Filipinos, and it is through the guidance of these rules that we will be able to craft laws that are meaningful, responsive, and beneficial to our people.

We have emerged from an era marked by unprecedented trials, where we had to adapt, innovate, and overcome. As we embark on this new chapter in our legislative journey, let these rules serve as our compass, steering us towards the path of inclusivity, transparency, and relentless public service.

Let us remember, we are the voice of the Filipino people - their hopes, their dreams, and their aspirations rest on our shoulders. In every decision we make, in every law we craft, we are shaping the future of our nation. The 19th Congress Rules serve as a blueprint for this monumental task, guiding us in our duty to the Filipino people.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Committee on Rules *Ad Hoc* Rules Re-Writing Committee for their diligence and unwavering commitment in putting together this pivotal document. The formation of these rules is no ordinary feat, and its completion, especially in the wake of the trying times we have weathered, is nothing short of extraordinary.

To my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives, let us rise to the occasion. Let us wield these rules not just as procedural necessities, but as an instrument of hope, progress, and transformative change. Let us remember that our role is more than legislators; we are custodians of the Filipino dream.

May these rules guide us as we continue to weave the narrative of our great nation. Let us, together, pave the way for a Philippines that is stronger, resilient, and ready to face the challenges of the future. With unwavering dedication and unity, let us lead our nation towards a brighter tomorrow.



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Speaker

MESSAGE

As officials in the government legislative milieu, we base our daily command of functions from the Rules of the House of Representatives. It provides the standard operating procedures or templates to undertake certain legislative processes.

Through the years, we have become witnesses to the fast-changing technological innovations and even to the cultural, medical, and social modifications. Change is a constant factor in all our lives, and we have no alternative but to adapt to this paradigm shift so we can be organized with the trends of time and be more effective legislators.

Change has indeed occurred in the House of Representatives. As the country is embracing the *New Normal*, the Rules providing for the conduct of sessions and committee hearings through electronic platforms has resulted to the effective and efficient processing of much needed reforms that are geared towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Other amendments to the 18th Congress House Rules were also needed to adjust certain parameters for both the plenary and committee procedures, ensuring that legislative actions and decisions are grounded by the provisions in the Philippine Constitution.

With the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Rules Re-Writing who reviewed and worked on the modifications, word-for-word, from the first page to the last of the Rules, and together with the secretariat of the House of Representatives, I convey my heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering support for the accomplishment of the 19th Congress Rules of the House of Representatives. Together, under the leadership of Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, we shall remain steadfast to our oath as public servants, to always work and uphold the interest of the Filipino people through legislation.



MANUEL JOSE "MANNIX" M. DALIPE
Majority Leader

FOREWORD

“LET us not reinvent the wheel”. This was my opening remark during the first meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Rules Re-Writing on February 27, 2023. As chairperson of this *ad hoc* committee for the 19th Congress, I wanted to set the tone and convey to the members that we should not attempt, as there is no need, to make major amendments to the current Rules being used by the House.

The House at the start of the 19th Congress has been using as its provisional rules the Rules of the 18th Congress, which for the first time in the history of the Philippine Congress authorized the use of digital platforms in the conduct of plenary sessions and committee meetings. This was a necessary response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 which prevented Members of the House to physically attend plenary sessions and committee meetings because of the threat of the deadly coronavirus and the strict community quarantine imposed at that time in various local government units nationwide.

With the authority to use digital platforms, committees conducted “full-Zoom” meetings and the House conducted “hybrid” sessions wherein Members can attend and participate either via Zoom or physically in the Session Hall. Later, as the pandemic eased, committees also began conducting “hybrid” meetings. Both practices proved to be efficient and practical as Members who normally would not have been able to attend and participate in the plenary session or committee meeting due to unforeseen circumstances were now able to do so via Zoom.

Given this situation and the present condition, the Members of the *ad hoc* committee made one significant decision, that is to retain the provision in the Rules of the House that authorizes the use of digital platforms in the conduct of plenary sessions and committee meetings if the situation necessitates the use thereof and to maintain the “hybrid” system currently being used by the House in the conduct of plenary sessions and committee meetings.

For this I would like to commend the Members of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Rules Re-Writing for your commitment and shared vision!

Magkaisa tayo para sa bayan!


FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS
Chairperson
Ad Hoc Committee on Rules Re-Writing

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Table of Contents

Part One

page

RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 19th Congress

Preamble	3
Declaration of Principles and Policies.	3
RULE I Convening and Organizing the House	
Section 1. First Meeting and Organization of the House.	4
Section 2. Convening of the House	5
Section 3. Convening of the House in Exceptional Cases	5
RULE II Membership	
Section 4. Composition.	7
Section 5. Term	7
Section 6. Oath or Affirmation of Members	7
Section 7. Duties	8
Section 8. The Majority and the Minority.	9
Section 9. Immunities	10
Section 10. Salaries and Benefits	10
RULE III Officers	
Section 11. Election of Officers	10
Section 12. Term of Office	11
Section 13. Vacancy	11
Section 14. Absence or Temporary Incapacity	12
RULE IV The Speaker	
Section 15. Duties and Powers	12
Section 16. Representation in International Parliamentary Gatherings and Organizations	16
RULE V The Deputy Speakers	
Section 17. Duties and Powers	16
RULE VI The Secretary General	
Section 18. Duties and Powers	17
Section 19. Reports of the Secretary General	20

RULE VII The Sergeant-at-Arms

Section 20. Duties and Powers	20
Section 21. Reports of the Sergeant-at-Arms	21

**RULE VIII The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal
and the Commission on Appointments**

Section 22. Representation of the House.	22
Section 23. Election of Members	22
Section 24. Vacancy	22
Section 25. Rules and Regulations	22

RULE IX The Committees

Section 26. Duties and Functions	22
Section 27. Standing and Special Committees	24
Section 28. Standing Committees.	24
Section 29. Sub-committees.	37
Section 30. Special Committees.	37
Section 31. Members and Officers	40
Section 32. Vacancy and Succession	41
Section 33. Limitations.	41
Section 34. Rules of Committees	42
Section 35. Place, Time and Notice of Meetings.	42
Section 36. Attendance in Meetings	43
Section 37. Regular and Special Meetings	44
Section 38. Public Hearings	45
Section 39. Committee Reports and Orders	45
Section 40. Reconsideration.	46
Section 41. Reports of the Committee on Rules	46

RULE X Bills, Resolutions, Messages, Memorials and Petitions

Section 42. Bills and Resolutions	46
Section 43. First Reading.	47
Section 44. Referral to Committee	48
Section 45. Change of Referral	48
Section 46. Consolidation or Substitution	49
Section 47. Status of Measures	49
Section 48. Bills and Resolutions Favorably Acted Upon	49
Section 49. Bills Unfavorably Acted Upon	50
Section 50. Discharge of Committees.	50
Section 51. Consideration of Motion to Discharge	50

	<i>page</i>
Section 52. Urgent Bills and Resolutions	51
Section 53. Second Reading and Debate	51
Section 54. Cloture	51
Section 55. Motion to Close Debate	52
Section 56. Amendments	52
Section 57. Approval of Bill or Joint Resolution on	52
Second Reading; Adoption of Resolution	
Section 58. Third Reading	52
Section 59. Recommitment of Measure	53
Section 60. Transmittal to the Senate.	53
Section 61. Measures from the Senate	53
Section 62. Conference Committee.	54
Section 63. Conference Committee Reports	54
Section 64. Enrollment of Bills and Joint Resolutions	55
Section 65. Action by the President.	56
Section 66. Procedure on Vetoed Bills and Joint Resolutions.	56
Section 67. Procedure for Resolutions	56
Section 68. Messages	56
Section 69. Communications, Memorials and Petitions.	56
RULE XI The Session	
Section 70. Commencement of Daily Sessions.	57
Section 71. Attendance in Sessions	57
Section 72. Order of Business	57
Section 73. Call to Order.	58
Section 74. Roll Call	58
Section 75. Quorum	58
Section 76. Absence of Quorum.	58
Section 77. Automatic Call of the House	59
Section 78. Motion to Adjourn Vacates Call	59
Section 79. Approval of Journal	59
Section 80. Calendar of Business	59
Section 81. Voting	61
Section 82. Sessions Open to the Public	61
Section 83. Executive Sessions	61
Section 84. Confidential Documents	61
Section 85. Suspension, Adjournment and Cancellation of Sessions	62
Section 86. Emergency Session	62
Section 87. Convening of the House During a Recess	62
Section 88. Opening and Adjournment of Sessions	62

RULE XII Conduct of Plenary Sessions through Electronic Platforms

Section 89. Conduct of Sessions through Electronic Platforms . .	62
Section 90. Attendance	63
Section 91. Nominal Voting	63

RULE XIII Decorum and Debate

Section 92. Manner of Addressing the Chair.	63
Section 93. Recognition of Member	63
Section 94. Time Limit	63
Section 95. Sponsor to Open and Close Debate	64
Section 96. Decorum.	64
Section 97. Conduct and Attire During Sessions and	65
Committee Meetings	
Section 98. Smoking Prohibited.	65

RULE XIV Motions and Their Precedence

Section 99. Reading and Withdrawal of Motions	65
Section 100. Precedence of Motions	65
Section 101. Prohibition of Riders	66
Section 102. One Motion for One Subject Matter.	66
Section 103. Point of Order	66
Section 104. Questions of Privilege.	66
Section 105. Reconsideration	67
Section 106. Amendments	67
Section 107. Amendment of Title.	68
Section 108. Motion to Strike and Insert.	68
Section 109. Motion to Postpone.	68
Section 110. Vote on Paper Objected To	68
Section 111. Appeal from Ruling of the Chair	68
Section 112. Recording of Motions	68

RULE XV Suspension of the Rules

Section 113. Authority to Move.	69
Section 114. Vote Requirement.	69
Section 115. Interruption of Motion	69
Section 116. Debate; Effect of Suspension.	69

RULE XV Voting

Section 117. Manner of Voting	69
Section 118. Nominal Voting	70
Section 119. Second Call on Nominal Voting.	70

	<i>page</i>
Section 120. Explanation of Vote	70
Section 121. No Interruption During Voting	70
Section 122. Tie Vote.	70
Section 123. Recording of Results of Nominal Voting.	70
RULE XVII Privilege Hour	
Section 124. Day for Privilege Hour.	71
RULE XVIII Question Hour	
Section 125. Appearance Upon Initiative of Department	72
Head of the Executive Department	
Section 126. Appearance Upon Request of the House	72
Section 127. Day of Appearance	72
Section 128. Appearance in Executive Session.	73
Section 129. Questions	73
Section 130. Standards Set for Questions	73
Section 131. Form of Questions and Answers	74
Section 132. Questions not Conforming with Standards	74
Section 133. Classification and Disposition of Questions	74
Section 134. Standards for Answers	74
Section 135. Questions of Local Significance.	74
Section 136. Unanswered Questions	74
Section 137. Interpellations and Comments of Proponents	74
of Original Questions	
Section 138. Service Unit	75
RULE XIX Committee of the Whole House	
Section 139. Constituting the Committee	75
Section 140. Proceedings	75
RULE XX Code of Conduct	
Section 141. Code of Conduct.	76
Section 142. Vote Requirement.	78
RULE XXI Proposals to Amend the Constitution	
Section 143. Proposals.	78
Section 144. Form of Proposals and Procedure for Adoption	78
Section 145. Constitutional Convention	78
RULE XXII Papers, Books and Records	
Section 146. Congressional Record	79
Section 147. Delivery of Papers to Archives	79
Section 148. Duty of Committee Secretaries.	79

	<i>page</i>
Section 149. Records and Books Open to the Public	79
RULE XXIII Broadcasting the House	
Section 150. Closed-Circuit Viewing of Floor Proceedings	80
Section 151. Public Broadcasting and Recording of	80
Floor Proceedings	
RULE XXIV Response to Subpoenas	
Section 152. Compliance to Subpoenas	81
Section 153. Notification of the House	81
Section 154. Determination of Proper Exercise of Jurisdiction	81
Section 155. Notification of the House of Proper Exercise	82
of Jurisdiction	
Section 156. Submission of Documents	82
Section 157. Transmittal of Rules to Court	82
Section 158. Guarantee of Rights and Privileges.	83
RULE XXV Session Hall, Conference Rooms, Lounges, Lobbies and Rooms	
Section 159. Use of the Session Hall, Conference Rooms,	83
Lounges and Lobbies	
Section 160. Assignment of Seats in the Session Hall and	84
the Gallery	
Section 161. Assignment of Rooms to House Members	84
RULE XXVI Precedents and Suppletory Provisions	
Section 162. Rulings as Precedents	84
Section 163. Suppletory Provisions	85
RULE XXVII The Mace and the Official Seal	
Section 164. The Mace.	85
Section 165. Official Seal.	85
RULE XXVIII Amendments	
Section 166. Amendments to the Rules	85
RULE XXIX Effectivity	
Section 167. Effectivity.	85
<i>Index to the Rules of the House of Representatives</i>	<i>87</i>

Part Two

page

**RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING INQUIRIES IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, 19th Congress**

Section 1. Power to Conduct Inquiries	105
Section 2. Modes of Initiation	105
Section 3. Change of referral.	106
Section 4. Conduct of Inquiry	106
Section 5. Joint Inquiry or Investigation.	107
Section 6. Quorum	107
Section 7. Executive Sessions	107
Section 8. Attendance of Witnesses.	107
Section 9. Rights and Duties of Witnesses	108
Section 10. Rights and Duties of Persons Affected by a Hearing .	109
Section 11. Contempt	110
Section 12. Penalty.	110
Section 13. Appearance of Counsel.	110
Section 14. Safekeeping and Release of Record of Testimonies of Witnesses	111
Section 15. Termination of Inquiry	112
Section 16. Report of Committee	112
Section 17. Plenary Action on the Report	113
Section 18. Internal Rules	113
Section 19. Rules of Procedure and Evidence	113
Section 20. Effectivity	113
<i>Index to the Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>in Aid of Legislation</i>	

Part Three

**RULES OF PROCEDURE IN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS,
19th Congress**

RULE I Applicability of Rules

Section 1. Applicability of Rules	123
---	-----

RULE II Initiating Impeachment

Section 2. Mode of Initiating Impeachment	123
Section 3. Filing and Referral of Verified Complaints.	124

RULE III Finding Probable Cause for Impeachment**A. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS**

Section 4. Determination of Sufficiency in Form	124
Section 5. Determination of Sufficiency in Substance	124
Section 6. Notice to Respondents and Time to Plead	125
Section 7. Submission of Evidence and Memoranda.	126
Section 8. Protection to Complainants or Witnesses	126
Section 9. Report and Recommendation	126
Section 10. Report to be Calendared	127

B. HOUSE ACTION

Section 11. Vote Required for Approval	127
Section 12. Where Dismissal Recommended	127
Section 13. Vote by Roll Call	127

RULE IV Verified Complaint/Resolution by One-Third of Members

Section 14. Endorsement of the Complaint/Resolution to the Senate	128
--	-----

RULE V Bar Against Impeachment

Section 15. Scope of Bar	128
------------------------------------	-----

RULE VI Prosecutor in All Impeachment Proceedings

Section 16. Impeachment Prosecutor	129
--	-----

RULE VII Applicability of the Rules of Court

Section 17. Rules of Procedure	129
--	-----

<i>Index to the Rules in Impeachment Proceedings</i>	<i>131</i>
--	------------

Flowcharts

Legislative Process	138
Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation. . .	139
Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings	140

Appendices

The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines	143
<i>Index to the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. .</i>	<i>233</i>
Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act	275
Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials	285
and Employees	

Part One



RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES *19th Congress*



RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

19th Congress



Preamble

We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, in order to fulfill our constitutional duty to make laws that effectively respond to the needs of our people and fulfill their aspirations for a just and humane society where every Filipino can enjoy the blessings of freedom and democracy under a Government strengthened by the rule of law, social justice and people empowerment, hereby promulgate and pledge faithful obedience to these Rules.

Declaration of Principles and Policies

I

The House of Representatives is the House of the People. The involvement and participation of the people in the processes of legislation shall be encouraged, guaranteed and sustained.

II

Public office is a public trust. The House of Representatives and every Member thereof are accountable to the people at all times. They shall perform their legislative mandates with utmost competence, efficiency, effectiveness, integrity and fidelity to the people's welfare.

III

Efficient and effective access to and dissemination of appropriate and accurate information are imperative in lawmaking. The development of institutional capabilities to harness technology to improve the legislative process and to continually inform the public of legislative performance in all facets of legislative work shall be pursued vigorously.

IV

The continuing development of the capabilities of Members to craft and secure the passage of socially relevant legislation is imperative. Continuing educative programs in disciplines relating to legislative work and its effective management shall be implemented for the Members. The establishment of institutional continuing education instrumentalities and systems and the pursuit of cooperative and coordinative networks with academic communities and the private sector for the purpose shall be fostered and strengthened.

V

The harnessing and development of a competent and efficient corps of professionals able to provide necessary legislative support services is a paramount concern. Programs for the continuing recruitment, training and development of qualified professionals and the establishment of appropriate organizational systems to best utilize their talents and skills to enhance institutional legislative performance shall be undertaken.

RULE I***Convening and Organizing the House***

Section 1. *First Meeting and Organization of the House.* – The Members shall meet and proceed to the organization of the House on the fourth Monday of July immediately following their election at the place designated for the holding of their sessions.

The Secretary General of the immediately preceding Congress shall preside over the inaugural session of the House until the election of a new Speaker. As presiding officer, the Secretary General shall call the session to order, call the roll of Members by provinces, cities and municipalities comprising districts, and by party-lists in alphabetical order, designate an acting Floor Leader, and preserve order and decorum.

After the designation of an acting Floor Leader, the body shall proceed to the election of the Speaker. The Speaker shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members through a roll call vote with

Members casting their vote without explanation. The presiding officer shall record the vote of each Member in the Journal.

After the oath-taking of the newly-elected Speaker, the body shall proceed to the adoption of the rules of the immediately preceding Congress to govern its proceedings until the approval and adoption of the rules of the current Congress.

Thereafter, the body shall proceed to the election, in successive order, of the Deputy Speakers, the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms who shall be elected by a majority of the Members, there being a quorum.

Section 2. *Convening of the House.* – The House shall convene once every year on the fourth Monday of July for its regular session unless a different date is fixed by law, and shall continue to be in session for such number of days as it may determine through a legislative calendar: *Provided*, That a regular session shall end not later than thirty (30) days before the opening of the next regular session exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. The President may call a special session at any time.

Section 3. *Convening of the House in Exceptional Cases.* – (a) Pursuant to *Section 10, Article VII* of the Constitution, the House shall, at ten o'clock in the morning of the third day after the vacancy in the offices of the President and Vice-President occurs, convene in accordance with its rules without need of a call and within seven days enact a law calling for a special election to elect a President and a Vice-President to be held not earlier than forty-five days nor later than sixty days from the time of such call. The bill calling such special election shall be deemed certified under *paragraph 2, Section 26, Article VI* of the Constitution and shall become law upon its approval on third reading by the Congress. Appropriations for the special elections shall be charged against any current appropriations and shall be exempt from the requirements of *paragraph 4, Section 25, Article VI* of the Constitution. The convening of the Congress cannot be suspended nor the special election postponed. No special election shall be called if the vacancy occurs within eighteen months before the date of the next presidential election;

(b) Whenever the President transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written declaration of inability to discharge the powers and duties of the office of the President and until a written declaration to the contrary is transmitted to them, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Whenever a majority of all the members of the cabinet transmit to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives a written declaration that no inability exists, the President shall reassume the powers and duties of the office of the President. Meanwhile, should a majority of all the members of the cabinet transmit within five days to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of the President, Congress shall decide the issue. For that purpose, Congress shall convene, if it is not in session, within forty-eight hours, in accordance with its rules and without need of call.

If Congress, within ten days after receipt of the last written declaration, or, if not in session, within twelve days after it is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately, that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of the President, the Vice-President shall act as the President; otherwise, the President shall continue exercising the powers and duties of the office; and

(c) Whenever the President suspends the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law, the House, if not in session, shall, within twenty-four hours following such proclamation or suspension, convene in accordance with these rules without any need of a call.

RULE II

Membership

Section 4. *Composition.* – The membership of the House shall be composed of elected representatives of legislative districts and those elected through the party-list system. Membership as Representative of a legislative district commences upon proclamation as a winning candidate, the administration of an oath for the office by a duly authorized public officer and assumption of office on June 30 following the election. In cases where a candidate has been proclaimed winner by the Commission on Elections, and the validity of the proclamation is put in question in any judicial or administrative body, such candidate who has been proclaimed winner and assumed office on June 30 following the election shall remain a Member of the House absent final and executory judgement on or resolution of the question over the proclamation of the Member by the appropriate judicial or administrative bodies.

Section 5. *Term.* – The Members of the House shall be elected for a term of three (3) years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election.

A Member cannot serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of office for any reason and for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption of the full term for which the Member is elected. In case a Member dies, resigns, is permanently incapacitated or lawfully barred from performing the duties of a Member, or is lawfully removed from office, vacancies may be filled as follows: (a) for vacancies in the representation of legislative districts, special elections may be called to fill the vacancies; and (b) for vacancies in the representation of party-lists, party-list representatives may be chosen to fill the vacancies in the manner provided by law. A Member elected or designated to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the duration of the unexpired term.

Section 6. *Oath or Affirmation of Members.* – Members shall take their oath or affirmation collectively or individually before the Speaker in open session. The oath of office administered by the

Speaker in open session to all Members present is a ceremonial affirmation of prior and valid oaths of office administered to them by duly authorized public officers. Following parliamentary precedents, Members take their oath before the Speaker in open session to enable them to enter into the performance of their functions and participate in the deliberations and other proceedings of the House.

Section 7. Duties. – The primary duty of Members is to legislate. In order to fulfill this duty, Members shall:

- a. prepare, introduce and work for the passage of legislative measures to effectively address social, political and economic needs and concerns;
- b. attend plenary sessions and meetings of committees of which they are members or where their proposed legislative measures are under consideration;
- c. participate actively in deliberations on legislative measures;
- d. articulate faithfully the demands and interests of their constituencies as well as those of other sectors that are affected by proposed legislative measures or by conditions, issues and concerns requiring legislative action;
- e. secure, through every lawful means possible, any and all data and information relevant and necessary for the determination and formulation of appropriate legislative actions and measures on public issues and concerns;
- f. make information pertaining to the performance of their legislative and constituent functions and duties available and accessible to the public; and
- g. perform such other functions and activities as may be lawful and necessary to ensure the swift passage of legislative measures needed to effectively address social, political and economic needs and promote national development,

as well as the efficient and timely conduct of legislative oversight.

Section 8. *The Majority and the Minority.* – Members who vote for the winning candidate for Speaker shall constitute the Majority in the House and they shall elect from among themselves the Majority Leader. The Majority Leader may be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Majority Members.

The Minority Leader shall be elected by the Members of the Minority and can be changed, at any time, by a majority vote of all the Minority Members.

The Majority and Minority shall elect such number of Deputy Majority and Minority Leaders as the rules provide.

A Member may transfer from the Majority to the Minority, or vice versa, at any time: *Provided, That:*

- a. The concerned Member submits a written request to transfer to the Majority or Minority, through the Majority or Minority Leaders, as the case may be. The Secretary General shall be furnished a copy of the request to transfer;
- b. The Majority or Minority, as the case may be, accepts the concerned Member in writing; and
- c. The Speaker shall be furnished by the Majority or the Minority Leaders, as the case may be, a copy of the acceptance in writing of the concerned Member.

In case the Majority or the Minority declines such request to transfer, the concerned Member shall be considered an independent Member of the House.

In any case, whether or not the request to transfer is accepted, all committee assignments and memberships given the concerned Member by the Majority or Minority, as the case may be, shall be automatically forfeited.

Members who choose not to align themselves with the Majority or the Minority shall be considered as independent Members of the House. They may, however, choose to join the Majority or Minority upon written request to and approval thereof by the Majority or Minority, as the case may be.

Section 9. Immunities. – Members shall be privileged from arrest for any and all offenses punishable by not more than six (6) years imprisonment while Congress is in session. A Member shall neither be questioned nor held liable in any other place for any speech delivered or debate undertaken in the House or in any of its committees.

Section 10. Salaries and Benefits. – Salaries and benefits of Members shall be determined in accordance with law. Any increase in the compensation and benefits of Members shall take effect after the expiration of the full term of all the Members approving such increase.

Any Member legally barred by competent authority from attending sessions and performing such other functions as a Member of the House of Representatives shall be denied salary, other compensation, office space and other privileges to which Members are entitled as of the date the bar becomes effective. However, upon the lifting or cessation of such bar, the salary and other entitlements that were denied shall, forthwith, be restored.

RULE III ***Officers***

Section 11. Election of Officers. – The officers of the House namely the Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected at the commencement of each Congress and whenever there is a vacancy.

At the commencement of each Congress, the Speaker shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members and the Secretary General shall record the vote of each Member which shall be cast without explanation. Thereafter, the Deputy Speakers, the Secretary

General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected in successive order by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum.

Likewise, whenever there is a vacancy, the Speaker shall be elected by a majority vote of all the Members and the Secretary General shall record the vote of each Member which shall be cast without explanation. The Deputy Speakers, the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum.

Section 12. *Term of Office.* – The officers shall hold office until the term of the Congress in which they were elected ends unless they resign, are removed from office, or are permanently incapacitated to perform their duties. The incumbent Secretary General and Sergeant-at-Arms at the close of a Congress shall, however, remain in office and, respectively, preside over and maintain order during the inaugural session of the succeeding Congress until after the election of a new Speaker.

Section 13. *Vacancy.* – A vacancy is created whenever any of the officers dies, resigns, or is permanently incapacitated, or when the House declares any office vacant.

In case of death, resignation or permanent incapacity of the Speaker, an Acting Speaker chosen by a majority of the Deputy Speakers from among themselves, shall assume the duties of the Speaker until a new Speaker is elected. Should a day lapse without an Acting Speaker having been chosen by a majority of the Deputy Speakers, they shall proceed to choose an Acting Speaker by lot from among themselves.

In case of death, resignation or permanent incapacity of any of the Deputy Speakers, the Secretary General, or the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Speaker shall designate an Acting Deputy Speaker, Secretary General, or Sergeant-at-Arms until the election of a new Deputy Speaker, Secretary General, or Sergeant-at-Arms, as the case may be.

Except for the position of Speaker, any position may be declared vacant by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a

quorum. The position of Speaker may only be declared vacant through nominal voting by a majority vote of all the Members. In cases when all offices are declared vacant, the incumbent Secretary General shall preside over the proceedings of the House only for the purpose and until the election of a new Speaker.

Section 14. *Absence or Temporary Incapacity.* – In case of absence of any of the officers or temporary incapacity to perform the functions of their office, the following rules shall apply:

- a. The Deputy Speaker chosen by a majority of the Deputy Speakers from among themselves shall assume the duties and powers of the Speaker when the latter is absent or temporarily incapacitated. Should a day lapse without an Acting Speaker having been chosen by a majority of the Deputy Speakers, they shall proceed to choose an Acting Speaker by lot from among themselves;
- b. The Speaker may designate a Member as acting Deputy Speaker who will assume the powers and duties of an absent or temporarily incapacitated Deputy Speaker until such time that the latter returns to office and resumes work;
- c. The Speaker may designate from among the Deputy Secretaries General an Acting Secretary General who will assume the duties and powers of the Secretary General until such time that the latter returns to office and resumes work; and
- d. The Speaker may designate an Acting Sergeant-at-Arms from among the senior officers of the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms who will assume the duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms until such time that the latter returns to office and resumes work.

RULE IV ***The Speaker***

Section 15. *Duties and Powers.* – The Speaker, as the political and administrative head of the House, is responsible for the overall

management of the proceedings, activities, resources, facilities and employees of the House.

The Speaker shall:

- a. prepare the legislative agenda for every regular session, establish systems and procedures to ensure full deliberation and swift approval of measures included therein, and may, for the purpose, avail of the assistance of the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the chairpersons of the standing committees and other Members of the House;
- b. conduct regular monthly caucus of all Members or groups thereof or as often as may be necessary to discuss priority measures and to facilitate dialogue, consensus and action on issues and concerns affecting the House and the performance of its functions;
- c. exercise general supervision over all committees and, in furtherance thereof, conduct regular monthly meetings with the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of all standing and special committees to set legislative targets, review performance in the attainment of targets, ensure that the priority legislative measures of committees are attuned to the legislative agenda of the House, and resolve such other issues and concerns that affect the operations and performance of the committees;
- d. establish, as far as practicable, an efficient information management system in the House utilizing among others, modern digital technology, that can: 1. facilitate access to and dissemination of data and information needed in legislation inclusive of facilitating real time translation of plenary proceedings in the major Philippine dialects and languages; 2. provide a simplified and comprehensive process of gathering, recording, storage and retrieval of data and information relating to activities and proceedings of the House; 3. sustain a public information program that will provide accessible, timely and accurate information relating to the House, its Members and officers, its committees and

its legislative concerns inclusive of facilitating, as far as practicable, broadcast coverage of plenary and committee proceedings;

- e. establish an efficient and effective system to monitor and evaluate the performance of legislative tasks and duties of the House, its Members and its committees;
- f. establish coordinative linkages with the Senate of the Philippines to efficiently monitor and facilitate Senate action on House measures pending with the same;
- g. preside over the sessions of the House and decide all questions of order subject to appeal by any Member who may explain the appeal in not more than five (5) minutes: *Provided*, That the appeal shall not be subject to debate, and no explanation of vote shall be allowed in case of nominal voting;
- h. designate a Member as temporary presiding officer after informing the Deputy Speakers: *Provided*, That any such designation shall be effective for one session day only;
- i. take appropriate measures as may be deemed advisable or as the House may direct, to preserve order and decorum in the session hall, the galleries, lobbies, chambers, offices, corridors and premises of the House;
- j. sign all acts, resolutions, memorials, writs, warrants and *subpoenae* that may be issued by or upon order of the House;
- k. perform administrative functions such as, among others:
 - k1. appointment of personnel of the House with authority to delegate this power;
 - k2. suspension, dismissal or imposition of other disciplinary measures on House personnel in accordance with Civil

Service rules: *Provided*, That the suspension or dismissal of the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms shall take effect only upon the concurrence of the majority of all the Members;

- k3. consolidation or splitting of vacant positions carrying salaries and wages which may be increased or reduced in the process, and/or creation of new positions in accordance with the General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That the total amount involved shall not exceed the total amount appropriated for the salaries and wages of the personnel of the House;
 - k4. implementation of merit-based policies and programs on personnel recruitment, training and development, promotions, incentives and benefits to ensure that the House has a corps of competent professionals able to provide needed legislative support services; and
 - k5. review, approve, and sign contracts entered into by the House of Representatives, with the authority to delegate this power.
- l. prepare the annual budget of the House with the assistance of the Committee on Accounts;
 - m. prepare, in consultation with the Committee on Rules, the rules and regulations governing public access to personal data and related information, including statements of assets and liabilities, of Members of the House;
 - n. develop through an appropriate entity of the House a system for drug testing in the House of Representatives, which may provide for the testing of any Member, officer, or employee of the House, and otherwise shall be comparable in scope to the system for drug testing in the executive branch: *Provided*, That the expenses of the system may be paid from applicable accounts of the House for official expenses; and

- o. require the submission of performance reports at the end of every regular session and fiscal year from the committee chairpersons, the Secretary General and the Sergeant-at-Arms, and such other reports as may be required from all concerned officers and offices of the House.

Section 16. *Representation in International Parliamentary Gatherings and Organizations.* – The Speaker shall be the permanent head of delegation and representative of the House in all international parliamentary gatherings and organizations: *Provided*, That the Speaker may designate any Member to be the representative of the Speaker. The Speaker shall also determine, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairperson of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy and the Minority Leader, who shall constitute the House delegation to any international conference or forum of parliamentarians and legislators and the secretariat support staff to be mobilized for the purpose.

RULE V

The Deputy Speakers

Section 17. *Duties and Powers.* – The duties and powers of the Deputy Speakers are:

- a. to assume the duties and powers of the Speaker when so chosen by a majority vote or by lot among themselves, as the case may be, in cases of absence or temporary incapacity of the Speaker, until such time that the Speaker returns to office and resumes work; and, in case of resignation, removal, permanent incapacity or death of the Speaker, until such time that a new Speaker is elected and qualified;
- b. to preside over the session when, even if present, the Speaker does not preside, or has not designated any other Member as temporary presiding officer as provided in *Section 15(h) of Rule IV*;
- c. to monitor, coordinate and facilitate action on measures filed, requests, and other concerns of Members representing

constituencies to which they may be assigned by the Speaker;

- d. to recommend to the Speaker appropriate policies, strategies and programs of action to improve the process of legislation and the quality of legislative measures, and to effectively address concerns of Members on matters affecting them, their constituencies, and the overall operations and integrity of the House;
- e. to appoint personnel of the House when so authorized by the Speaker; and
- f. to perform such other duties and functions as may be assigned or delegated to them by the Speaker.

RULE VI

The Secretary General

Section 18. Duties and Powers. – The duties and powers of the Secretary General are:

- a. to call the session to order, to call the roll of Members by provinces, cities and municipalities comprising districts and by party-lists in alphabetical order, to designate an acting Floor Leader, to preserve order and decorum, and to decide all questions of order, as presiding officer pending the election of the Speaker, during the inaugural session of the House;
- b. to prepare the Order of Business for the inaugural session of the House which shall include:
 - b.1. a Resolution informing the President of the Philippines that the House of Representatives has been organized and has elected its Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Secretary General and Sergeant-at-Arms;
 - b.2. a Resolution informing the Senate of the Philippines

that the House of Representatives has been organized and has elected its Speaker, Deputy Speakers, Secretary General and Sergeant-at-Arms;

- b.3. a Concurrent Resolution of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines providing for a joint session to hear the State of the Nation Address of the President of the Philippines; and
- b.4. a Concurrent Resolution authorizing the appointment of a joint committee of both Houses to inform the President of the Philippines that Congress, in joint session, is ready to receive the President for the State of the Nation Address;
- c. to enforce orders and decisions of the House;
- d. to prepare and distribute copies of the Order of Business of the House to all Members;
- e. to attend, personally or through representative, all sessions of the House, call the roll of the Members and read bills, resolutions, messages, communications, memorials, petitions and other documents which should be reported to the House or the reading of which is required by the House or the Speaker;
- f. to note all questions of order and the decisions thereon, the records of which shall be printed at the close of each session for the use of the Members as appendix to the Journal of such session;
- g. to keep, certify and distribute to the Members the Journal of each session which shall be a clear and succinct account of the business conducted and actions taken by the House: *Provided*, That Journals of executive sessions shall be recorded in a separate book and kept confidential;

- h. to provide the House with information on approved bills to be transmitted to the President for action;
- i. to distribute to Members, within six (6) months after the close of a regular session, copies of the Record of the House for a regular session and the acts and resolutions passed and adopted during the same;
- j. to make available on the House website within six (6) months after the close of every regular session, the Record of the House;
- k. to distribute to Members, at the commencement of every regular session, a list of the reports submitted to the House by each head of department of the Executive and Judicial Departments;
- l. to procure and retain sufficient copies of books, records and documents for the use of the Members and the officers of the House in the library of the House and in the office of the Secretary General;
- m. to attest to and affix the seal of the House on all writs, warrants and *subpoenae* issued by or upon order of the House or the Speaker;
- n. to certify and affix the seal of the House on all approved measures, orders, acts and resolutions;
- o. to submit to the Speaker all contracts and agreements for approval;
- p. to ensure that the employees of the House perform their duties competently, efficiently and effectively, and in furtherance thereof, to impose necessary disciplinary measures and recommend dismissal of erring employees to the Speaker in accordance with Civil Service rules, and to recommend to the Speaker policies and programs on recruitment and hiring of competent professionals, the

improvement of the capabilities of House personnel to provide needed technical and other support services to the Members, and the acquisition, improvement and upgrading of necessary facilities and equipment;

- q. to appoint personnel of the House when authorized by the Speaker;
- r. to serve as custodian of the property and records of the House and all government property within the House premises, and to make an inventory of all these property and records at the beginning and end of each regular session;
- s. to cause the publication of the attendance record of Members in sessions of the House and their voting records on bills of national application in accordance with rules and regulations to be issued by the House; and
- t. to perform other duties that may be assigned or ordered by the House or by the Speaker.

Section 19. *Reports of the Secretary General.* – The Secretary General shall prepare and submit to the House, through the Speaker, at the end of each fiscal year, a comprehensive report on the performance of the House Secretariat and the expenditures incurred in the operations thereof.

RULE VII

The Sergeant-at-Arms

Section 20. *Duties and Powers.* – The duties and powers of the Sergeant-at-Arms are:

- a. to attend all sessions of the House unless excused by the Speaker or the Presiding Officer, and personally or through his designee(s), all meetings of the committees;

- b. to strictly enforce rules relating to admission to the session hall, the galleries, offices, corridors and premises of the House building;
- c. to ensure that employees under the office of the Sergeant-at-Arms observe proper behavior and faithfully perform their duties;
- d. to implement orders and serve all processes issued by authority of the House or by the Speaker;
- e. to secure and maintain order in the session hall, galleries, offices, corridors and premises of the House building during sessions, during the conduct of meetings of committees and during such other proceedings or activities of the House whether or not the House is in session;
- f. to secure the safety of the Members while in the House premises or in any other place as the Speaker may direct;
- g. to secure the properties of the House;
- h. to recommend and implement upon the direction of the Speaker, security management systems, policies and programs that will ensure the maintenance of order in the House and its premises, protect the safety of the Members and employees, visitors and other persons who are within the premises of the House on official business, and the preservation of properties, equipment, facilities, documents and records of the House; and
- i. to act as custodian of the Mace, which shall be the symbol of authority and shall be borne by the Sergeant-at-Arms while enforcing order on the floor.

Section 21. *Reports of the Sergeant-at-Arms.* – The Sergeant-at-Arms shall prepare and submit to the House, through the Speaker, at the end of every fiscal year, a performance report relative to programs and activities relating to the security and maintenance of order in the House.

RULE VIII

The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments

Section 22. *Representation of the House.* – The House contingent in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments composed of six (6) and twelve (12) Members respectively, who shall be chosen on the basis of proportional representation of the political parties and parties or organizations registered under the party-list system represented therein, shall be constituted within thirty (30) days after the election of the Speaker.

Section 23. *Election of Members.* The motion or resolution to elect Members to the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and Commission on Appointments shall not be subject to a division of the House.

Section 24. *Vacancy.* – Any vacancy in the House contingent in the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments shall be filled through a motion or resolution presented to the House in accordance with *Sections 22 and 23* hereof. In case a vacancy occurs during a recess of Congress, the Speaker may fill the vacancy temporarily with a Member belonging to the same party or organization as the former incumbent upon nomination of the parties or organizations concerned.

Section 25. *Rules and Regulations.* – The House recognizes the power of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments to adopt their own rules and regulations.

RULE IX

The Committees

Section 26. *Duties and Functions.* – Committees shall study, deliberate on and act upon all measures referred to them inclusive of bills, resolutions and petitions, and shall recommend for approval

or adoption by the House those that, in their judgment, advance the interests and promote the welfare of the people.

In furtherance thereof, committees shall establish appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that constituencies, sectors and groups whose interests are affected by any pending measure are given sufficient opportunities to be heard. Committees shall pursue dialogues and consultations with affected sectors and constituencies, conduct researches, and engage the services and assistance of experts and professionals from the public or private sectors as may be needed in the performance of their functions.

Committees shall have oversight responsibilities to determine whether or not laws and programs addressing subjects within their jurisdictions are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress and whether or not they should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In the performance of these responsibilities, committees shall review and study on a continuing basis, or upon order of the House:

- a. the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of laws and programs addressing subjects within their respective jurisdictions;
- b. the organization and operation of national agencies and entities having responsibilities for the administration and execution of laws and programs addressing subjects within their respective jurisdictions; and
- c. any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation addressing subjects within their respective jurisdictions.

Each committee may establish an oversight sub-committee, or require its sub-committees to conduct oversight within their respective jurisdictions, to assist in carrying out its oversight function.

The Speaker, with the approval of the House, may create *ad hoc* oversight committees for the purpose of reviewing specific matters within the jurisdictions of more than two (2) committees.

Committees may also, *motu proprio*, upon a majority vote of all their Members, conduct hearings and inquiries on issues and concerns within their respective jurisdictions.

Section 27. Standing and Special Committees. – The House shall have standing and special committees that shall be organized, except for the Committee on Rules, on the basis of proportional representation of the Majority and the Minority.

Standing committees shall have jurisdiction over measures relating to needs, concerns, issues and interests affecting the general welfare and which require continuing or comprehensive legislative study, attention and action. Special committees are intended to address measures relating to special or urgent needs, concerns, issues and interests of certain sectors or constituencies requiring immediate legislative action, or to such needs, concerns, issues and interests that may fall within the scope of the jurisdiction of a standing committee, but which the standing committee concerned is unable to act upon with needed dispatch.

Section 28. Standing Committees. – The House shall, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules, organize the following standing committees, the membership and jurisdictions of which shall be as hereinafter stated:

- a. **Accounts, 60 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the internal budget of the House including budget preparation, submission and approval, disbursements, accounting and financial operations.
- b. **Agrarian Reform, 40 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to agrarian reform, the resettlement of and other support services for agrarian reform beneficiaries, and the implementation and amendment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

- c. ***Agriculture and Food, 100 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to food and agricultural production, agribusiness, agri-economics, agricultural research and technology, agricultural education including extension services, soil conservation, soil survey and research, irrigation, farm credit and security, animal industry and quarantine, and crop and livestock production, insurance, and guarantee programs.
- d. ***Appropriations, 140 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the expenditures of the national government including payment of public indebtedness, creation or abolition and classification of positions in government, and the determination of salaries, allowances and benefits of government personnel.
- e. ***Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, 55 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to aquaculture and fisheries production and development, the business of aquaculture, use of aquatic resources, fresh water and fisheries culture research and technology applications, aquaculture and fisheries education and training including extension services, conservation of streams, rivers, lakes and other fisheries resources, and fishpond and fisheries culture production and development including related technical, financial and guarantee assistance programs.
- f. ***Banks and Financial Intermediaries, 45 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to banking and currency, government-owned or controlled banks and financial institutions, non-government banks and financial institutions, insurance, securities and securities exchange.
- g. ***Basic Education and Culture, 65 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to pre-school, kindergarten, primary and secondary education, science high schools except the Philippine Science High School System, teachers and students' welfare, alternative learning systems, special education and community adult education, the national

language, libraries and museums, and the preservation and enrichment of Filipino arts and culture.

- h. ***Civil Service and Professional Regulation, 35 Members.***
 - All matters directly and principally relating to the organization, operation, management, rules and regulations of the civil service; the status, welfare and benefits of government officers and employees; and the regulation of admission to and the practice of professions.
- i. ***Climate Change, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies, programs, strategies, practices, technologies and innovation addressing climate change causes and impacts, including, but not limited to, avoidance and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climate risk management to enhance adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability to climate risks, all matters relating to adaptation and mitigation to enhance resilience and to promote sustainable development, the country's compliance with relevant international agreements, and cooperation with other countries.
- j. ***Constitutional Amendments, 55 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to amendments or revisions of the Constitution.
- k. ***Cooperatives Development, 25 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to cooperatives inclusive of cooperative movements and organizations; urban and rural-based credit, consumer, producers, marketing, service and multi-purpose cooperatives; electric cooperatives registered with the Cooperative Development Authority; and the implementation or amendment of the Cooperative Code of the Philippines.
- l. ***Dangerous Drugs, 45 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to illegal or prohibited drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, the production,

manufacture, use and trafficking thereof, as well as the rehabilitation and treatment of drug dependents.

- m. **Disaster Resilience, 30 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to disaster and calamities, whether natural or man-made, as well as policies, plans, programs and projects related to disaster risk and vulnerability reduction and management including disaster preparedness and resiliency, relief and rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- n. **Ecology, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to ecosystem management including pollution control.
- o. **Economic Affairs, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to economic development planning and programs inclusive of economic and socio-economic studies and development policies and strategies.
- p. **Energy, 70 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the exploration, development, utilization or conservation of energy resources, including the development and utilization of alternative and renewable energy resources and the entities involved in energy or power generation, transmission, distribution and supply excluding nuclear energy and its sources and infrastructures.
- q. **Ethics and Privileges, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the duties, conduct, rights, privileges and immunities, dignity, integrity and reputation of the House and its Members.
- r. **Flagship Programs and Projects, 20 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the highly strategic infrastructure or programs and projects as identified by the President with the concurrence of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board Infrastructure Committee (INFRACOM) and/or the

Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), and included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or funded through public-private partnerships, including the proposal of possible game-changing and high-impact flagship programs and projects in urban and regional areas, and the necessity of recommending requisite courses of action in relation thereto.

- s. ***Foreign Affairs, 55 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the relations of the Philippines with other countries, diplomatic and consular services, the United Nations and its agencies, and other international organizations and agencies.
- t. ***Games and Amusements, 70 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to all forms and places of gaming and amusements.
- u. ***Good Government and Public Accountability, 45 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance in office committed by officers and employees of the government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities inclusive of investigations of any matter of public interest on its own initiative or upon order of the House.
- v. ***Government Enterprises and Privatization, 35 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the creation, organization, operation, reorganization and amendments of charters of government-owned or controlled corporations including the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System and similar institutions, but excluding government-owned or controlled banks and financial institutions.
- w. ***Government Reorganization, 25 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the reorganization of the government or any of its branches, departments and instrumentalities, excluding government-owned

or controlled corporations, and the creation, abolition or change of the principal functions or nature of any government department, agency, commission or board.

- x. **Health, 85 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to public health and hygiene, and quarantine, medical, hospital and other health facilities and services.
- y. **Higher and Technical Education, 70 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to higher education and post-secondary technical-vocational education, open distance learning, students and teachers' welfare, and centers of excellence and development.
- z. **Housing and Urban Development, 55 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to shelter delivery including services, agencies and instrumentalities of government related thereto, and the management of urbanization issues and concerns such as, among others, urban planning and development, urban land reform and welfare of the urban poor in the overall context of enhancing housing and shelter services delivery.
- aa. **Human Rights, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the protection and enhancement of human rights, assistance to victims of human rights violations and their families, the prevention of violations of human rights and the punishment of perpetrators of such violations.
- bb. **Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples and the development of their communities.
- cc. **Information and Communications Technology, 55 Members.** – All matters relating to postal, telegraph, radio, broadcast, cable and satellite television, telephone, mobile cellular networks, convergence, computers and

telecommunications technologies including but not limited to broadband access to wired and wireless connectivity to the internet such as voice over internet protocol (VOIP), video conferencing, and audio/video/data streaming; any and all other public and private electronic means of capturing, processing, storing and transmitting information for information technology; information systems inclusive of hardware, software and content applications; mobile short messaging system (SMS) applications affecting upstream and downstream business applications; and networks that enable access to online technology.

- dd. ***Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, 50 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to inter-parliamentary relations and linkages with international parliamentary organizations such as but not limited to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); establishment of inter-parliamentary friendship societies; and visits of parliamentary delegations as well as other foreign dignitaries.
- ee. ***Justice, 55 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the administration of justice, the Judiciary, the practice of law and integration of the Bar, legal aid, penitentiaries and reform schools, adult probation, impeachment proceedings, registration of land titles, immigration, deportation, naturalization, and the definition of crimes and other offenses punishable by law and their penalties.
- ff. ***Labor and Employment, 45 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to labor, the advancement and protection of the rights and welfare of workers, employment and manpower development inclusive of the promotion of industrial peace and employer-employee cooperation, labor education, labor standards and statistics, and the

organization and development of the labor market including the recruitment, training and placement of manpower.

- gg. **Legislative Franchises, 60 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the grant, amendment, extension or revocation of franchises.
- hh. **Local Government, 65 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to autonomous regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays including their revenues and expenditures.
- ii. **Metro Manila Development, 50 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs to promote and enhance the development of the Metro Manila area.
- jj. **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs on entrepreneurship development including the promotion of entrepreneurship, support to entrepreneurs, and the establishment and continuing viability and growth of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises.
- kk. **Mindanao Affairs, 60 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the development of Mindanao including the preparation of a comprehensive and integrated development plan for Mindanao.
- ll. **Muslim Affairs, 20 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to Muslim affairs inclusive of the welfare of Muslim Filipinos and the development of predominantly Muslim areas.
- mm. **National Defense and Security, 65 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to national defense and national security, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, citizens army, selective services, forts and arsenals, military

bases, reservations and yards and coast and geodetic surveys.

- nn. **Natural Resources, 65 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to natural resources, except energy and fisheries resources, and their exploration, conservation, management and utilization, lands of the public domain, mines and minerals, forests, parks and wildlife, and marine resources.
- oo. **North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to all policies and programs concerning the development of municipalities, cities, provinces and other local communities in the North Luzon area; and other actions to promote growth and expand avenues of economic cooperation with contiguous areas
- pp. **Overseas Workers Affairs, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs on the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of overseas Filipino workers and their families.
- qq. **People's Participation, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the role, rights and responsibilities of people's organizations, non-government and civic organizations, and other similar groups, and the establishment of mechanisms for consultation with and participation of the people in governance and in legislation including the establishment and maintenance of a databank on all such organizations.
- rr. **Population and Family Relations, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to population growth and family planning, population census and statistics and family relations.
- ss. **Poverty Alleviation, 40 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs to address

the poverty situation in the country and other actions to alleviate the plight of the poor and promote their right to equal access to opportunities for a better quality of life.

- tt. **Public Accounts, 45 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the examination and scrutiny of audit reports on the performance of all government agencies to determine their adherence to or compliance with the plans and programs authorized through appropriations approved by the legislature.
- uu. **Public Information, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the production and dissemination of information to the public through all forms of mass communications and media such as print and broadcast media, movie and television, video, advertising, cable television and the internet, including the regulation thereof, and the rights and responsibilities of persons and entities engaged therein.
- vv. **Public Order and Safety, 55 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the suppression of criminality including those on illegal gambling, private armies, terrorism, organized crime and illegal drugs, regulation of firearms, firecrackers and pyrotechnics, civil defense, private security agencies, and the Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire Protection and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.
- ww. **Public Works and Highways, 100 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the planning, construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of public infrastructure inclusive of buildings, highways, bridges, roads, parks, drainage, flood control and protection, water utilities and utilization of waters of the public domain.
- xx. **Revision of Laws, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the revision and codification of laws.

- yy. **Rules, 30 Members.** – All matters relating to the Rules of the House, Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings, Order of Business, Calendar of Business, the referral of bills, resolutions, speeches, committee reports, messages, memorials and petitions, and the creation of committees inclusive of determining their respective jurisdictions. The Majority Leader shall be the chairperson, the Deputy Majority Leaders shall be the vice-chairpersons, and the Minority Leader and the Deputy Minority Leaders shall be Members of the committee: *Provided*, That the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives of the immediately preceding Congress who is still a Member of the present House of Representatives shall be an *ex-officio* Member of the Committee on Rules.
- zz. **Rural Development, 30 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the development of rural areas and islands through policies, programs, support services and other interventions to include livelihood and enterprise development, microfinancing, community mobilization and development, area development planning, and access to rural project funding and financing.
- aaa. **Science and Technology, 35 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to science and technology including scientific and technological research and development, technology transfer, science and technology education including the Philippine Science High School System, intellectual property rights on biotechnology, and climate and weather forecasting.
- bbb. **Senior Citizens, 25 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to the needs and welfare of senior citizens as well as policies and programs that will enhance their active participation in society.
- ccc. **Social Services, 40 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to social development and social

services and interventions that develop and enhance the quality of individual and community life.

- ddd. ***Suffrage and Electoral Reforms***, 35 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to the protection and advancement of the right of suffrage and the conduct of elections, plebiscites, initiatives, recalls and referenda.
- eee. ***Sustainable Development Goals***, 20 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to the achievement of the country's commitment to the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development including, but not limited to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, promoting health and well-being, obtaining quality education, achieving gender equality and empowering women, ensuring access to waters, sanitation for all, ensuring access to affordable and clean energy, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work.
- fff. ***Tourism***, 75 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to the development and promotion of tourism both domestic and international.
- ggg. ***Trade and Industry***, 60 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to domestic and foreign trade, intellectual property rights, patents, trade names and trademarks, standards, weights and measures, designs, quality control, consumer protection, prices and marketing of commodities, handicrafts and cottage industries, and the development, regulation and diversification of industry and investments.
- hhh. ***Transportation***, 85 Members. – All matters directly and principally relating to land, sea, and air transportation and all public utilities and services connected thereto, as well as the establishment, operation, management and regulation of airports, seaports and other mass transportation systems including light and heavy rail

systems and roll on-roll off systems (RO-RO), civil aviation, air transport agreements, transportation safety standards, air transport security, maritime security, ballast water management, ship financing, ship mortgage, maritime liens and transportation related insurance.

- iii. ***Veterans Affairs and Welfare, 30 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the welfare of war veterans, veterans of military campaigns, military retirees, and their surviving spouses and other beneficiaries.
- jjj. ***Visayas Development, 35 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies, programs and related initiatives affecting the economic, social, political and cultural development of municipalities, cities and provinces in the Visayas regions including needs, concerns and issues that impact on the welfare of constituencies therein.
- kkk. ***Ways and Means, 75 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the fiscal, monetary and financial affairs of the national government including tariff, taxation, revenues, borrowing, credit and bonded indebtedness.
- III. ***Welfare of Children, 35 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the needs and overall welfare of Filipino children, including children with special needs, and all actions to ensure the availability of and their continuing access to affordable and appropriate programs and resources that facilitate and contribute to the attainment of their welfare.
- mmm. ***Women and Gender Equality, 55 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the rights and welfare of women including girl-children, inclusive of their education, employment, working conditions, their role in nation building, and all concerns relating to gender equality.

- nnn. **Youth and Sports Development, 50 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to youth development including the development of their leadership potentials and the promotion of their moral, physical, intellectual and social well-being, and sports development.

Section 29. Sub-committees. – Each standing committee may create such sub-committees as may be necessary for the efficient and effective performance of its functions.

Section 30. Special Committees. – The Committee on Rules may, *motu proprio* or upon request of any Member, recommend to the House, for its approval, the organization of special committees on the basis of proportional representation of the Majority and the Minority, and shall determine their membership and jurisdictions. Their Members shall be chosen and their membership affirmed in the same manner as those of standing committees and they shall exercise the same powers as standing committees.

The House shall, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules, organize the following special committees the membership and jurisdictions of which shall be as hereinafter stated:

- a. **Special Committee on Bases Conversion, 25 Members.**
– All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs relating to bases conversion, the operation of special economic zones in former military bases, sale of military camps, and disposition of proceeds thereof, relocation of military camps and personnel and the construction of new military camps.
- b. **Special Committee on Bicol Affairs and Economic Development, 20 Members.** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs to promote and enhance the development of the Bicol area inclusive of developmental projects, care programs and the Bicol River basin project.

- c. ***Special Committee on Creative Industries, 25 Members.***
– All matters directly and principally relating to industries generated by individual creativity, skill and talent that produce cultural, artistic and innovative products such as but not limited design, gastronomy, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, furniture, TV and radio, advertising, literature, print and digital media, software and game development, animation, live events and the performing arts.
- d. ***Special Committee on East ASEAN Growth Area, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to social, political and economic policies affecting the countries within the area, and the promotion of trade and investment among these countries.
- e. ***Special Committee on Food Security, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to programs and policies on food production and distribution, including the factors affecting food supply in the country, and other actions intended to achieve sustained growth and self-reliance in the production of basic food commodities, the availability and accessibility of these commodities to the people, and long-term food security for the nation.
- f. ***Special Committee on Globalization and WTO, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the effects on various social sectors of WTO policies and other actions to harness opportunities offered by globalization for economic development.
- g. ***Special Committee on Land Use, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to land use issues inclusive of the enhancement of resource use and management of indigenous cultural communities, land valuation regulation, preservation of historical and cultural heritage sites, and public-private partnership as well as linkages among national and local agencies and stakeholders in land resource management.

- h. ***Special Committee on Nuclear Energy, 70 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the policies and programs for the production, utilization and conservation of nuclear energy, including the development of nuclear power infrastructures as well as interaction of other energy sources with nuclear energy, as a reliable, cost-competitive and environment-friendly energy source to ensure energy security, consistent with the national interest and the state’s policy of freedom from nuclear weapons.
- i. ***Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, 25 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to negotiations and other policy and program initiatives in pursuit of the peace process and national reconciliation, the cessation of hostilities generated by internal armed conflicts, and the welfare of rebel-returnees.
- j. ***Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities, 25 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the needs, rights, welfare of persons with disabilities as well as policies and programs that will enhance their active participation and integration in society.
- k. ***Special Committee on Reforestation, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to policies and programs on reforestation including the effects of forest denudation, and other actions to ensure the implementation of a sustained community-based nationwide reforestation program.
- l. ***Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to the development of the Southern Tagalog area inclusive of those affecting agricultural areas, tourism, economic and industrial estates, and processing areas therein.
- m. ***Special Committee on Strategic Intelligence, 20 Members.*** – All matters directly and principally relating to strategic intelligence initiatives, activities, and programs of the

Philippine government including but not limited to counter-intelligence, counter terrorism, foreign intelligence, and economic intelligence.

- n. ***Special Committee on West Philippine Sea, 20 Members.***
 - All matters directly and principally relating to West Philippine Sea issues, including territorial and boundary disputes, national and regional peace and security issues, joint cooperation arrangements and maritime and environmental concerns.

Section 31. *Members and Officers.* – Members of each committee constituting the Majority and the Minority therein shall be chosen by the Majority and Minority, respectively. Their membership shall be affirmed in plenary session upon motion of the Majority Leader and Minority Leader, as the case may be, and shall not be subject to a division of the House. As far as practicable, each region shall be represented in every committee.

The Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the Deputy Majority Leaders, the Minority Leader and the Deputy Minority Leaders and the chairperson of the Committee on Accounts or a Member deputized by any of the aforementioned officials shall have voice and vote in all committees. *Provided*, That the committee to which a particular Member has been deputized by any of the said officials shall inform the Committee on Rules of such deputation.

Every standing and special committee shall have a chairperson and vice-chairpersons. The Member elected whose name appears first on the list of committee Members shall be the chairperson and the Members whose names appear successively thereafter shall be the vice-chairpersons which number shall be determined in accordance with the following:

Except the Committee on Rules, each committee may have one-fifth (1/5) of its total membership as vice-chairpersons. *Provided*, That a committee with more than one hundred (100) Members will have such number of vice-chairpersons as may be determined by the Speaker.

The Member whose name appears first on the list of committee members elected on the part of the minority shall be considered as the senior minority member.

A Member who is the author of a bill or a resolution referred to a committee or, if there be several authors, the first two authors named in the bill or resolution, or their duly designated co-authors, as the case may be, shall be considered as members of the committee of referral for the purpose and throughout the duration of the consideration of said bill or resolution, but shall have no vote in the committee.

Section 32. *Vacancy and Succession.* – A vacancy in any committee shall be filled upon motion of the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader, as the case may be, and by affirmation of such action by the House in plenary session: *Provided*, That the proportional representation of the Majority and the Minority in the committee is maintained.

In case of absence or temporary incapacity of the committee chairperson, the highest ranking vice-chairperson or the Member whose name appears next to the name of the chairperson in the list of committee Members shall automatically assume the duties of the chairperson until such time that the latter returns to office and resumes work. In case of absence or temporary incapacity of the highest ranking vice-chairperson, the Member next in succession in the list of committee Members shall automatically assume the duties of the chairperson and so on.

In case of vacancy in the position of committee chairperson by reason of death, resignation, permanent disability or removal, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as when the chairperson is absent or temporarily incapacitated. The Member who succeeds shall perform the duties of the chairperson only until such time that a new chairperson is chosen and assumes office in accordance with *Section 31* hereof.

Section 33. *Limitations.* – A Member of the House cannot serve as chairperson of more than one (1) committee. A Member of the

House contingent in the House Electoral Tribunal or the Commission on Appointments cannot serve as chairperson of any committee.

A Member of a committee shall not participate in committee deliberations or vote on any matter that directly or indirectly affects the Member's business, financial or pecuniary interest.

Section 34. *Rules of Committees.* – Standing and special committees may adopt their own rules by a majority vote of all their Members: *Provided*, That these rules are consistent with the Rules of the House and will not expand or in any way alter their jurisdictions as provided herein. The committees shall furnish the Committee on Rules with a copy of their rules.

Section 35. *Place, Time and Notice of Meetings.* – All committees and sub-committees shall conduct their meetings, conferences or hearings at such time they may determine in any of the conference rooms within the House premises or, whenever necessary, in any other place when so authorized by the Speaker. The Speaker, in consultation with the Majority Leader and subject to the internal rules that shall be adopted by each committee pursuant to *Section 34* hereof, may authorize committees to conduct meetings, conferences, or hearings through electronic platforms like video conference, telecommunications and other computer online technologies. Only the Committee on Rules and such committees to which it has granted permission, may meet while the House is in plenary session, has adjourned, or is in recess.

Members shall be notified in writing through electronic mail or instant messaging three (3) calendar days before a regularly scheduled committee or sub-committee meeting, conference or hearing except when the Speaker authorizes the conduct of immediate meeting or hearing for the passage of urgent legislative measures. Such notices shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, the measures and other matters to be taken up and the names of the resource persons invited. It shall include, as far as practicable, copies of the measures together with fact sheets, research data and other information materials related thereto.

The committees or sub-committees, through their respective committee secretariats, shall undertake measures to ensure that public notices or announcements regarding the conduct of any of its meetings or public hearings are issued in writing at least three (3) days before said meeting, conference or hearing, through electronic mail, posting in the House of Representatives website or instant messaging. They shall undertake measures and establish systems to ensure that constituencies, sectors or groups whose welfare and interests are directly affected by measures to be discussed are enabled to participate in these meetings or public hearings. Meetings and public hearings shall be open to the public subject to reasonable regulations in the interest of security, order, and the safety of persons in attendance.

A bill, resolution or petition shall be set for hearing only after it has been referred in plenary session to an appropriate committee. Members of a committee or sub-committee shall be notified in writing or through electronic mail or instant messaging at least five (5) calendar days before the initial hearing on any bill, resolution or petition except when the Speaker authorizes the immediate passage of the bill, resolution or petition.

The committees and sub-committees, as far as practicable, shall schedule bills, resolutions or petitions on similar or related subject matters for the same meeting or hearing.

Section 36. *Attendance in Meetings.* – Every Member of a committee shall be present in all the committee meetings and public hearings unless prevented from doing so by sickness and other unavoidable circumstances duly reported to the concerned committee through the committee secretary. As far as practicable, Members who are attending meetings through electronic platforms, as authorized by the Speaker, shall register their attendance by joining the virtual conference which shall be verified and authenticated by the committee secretary. Members who are unable to join the virtual conference due to technical reasons, may register their attendance through mobile phones or other electronic accounts previously registered with and verified by the committee secretary. A Member of a committee who

incurs three (3) consecutive unexplained absences within a regular session shall forfeit membership in that committee.

Section 37. *Regular and Special Meetings.* – The committees shall hold regular meetings at least twice a month. Special meetings may be held by the committee which may be called by the chairperson or by one-fourth (1/4) of all its Members: *Provided*, That the Members shall be notified in writing or through electronic mail or instant messaging indicating therein the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting.

One-fifth (1/5) of all the Members of a committee or sub-committee shall constitute a quorum. Pursuant to *Section 36* hereof, Members who are attending via electronic platforms such as virtual conference shall be included in the determination of quorum. However, a committee or sub-committee may authorize a smaller number to conduct public hearings on measures pending before it.

The Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the Deputy Majority Leaders, the Minority Leader, the Deputy Minority Leaders and the chairperson of the Committee on Accounts or any Member deputized by any of the aforementioned officials shall be included in the total number of committee Members for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum if they are present in a meeting.

In cases of joint meetings, a quorum must be present in each of the committees concerned which shall include Members who are attending via electronic platforms such as virtual conference pursuant to *Section 36* hereof.

During committee meetings, Members of the majority and the minority shall be allowed to speak alternately, when practicable.

If the committee or sub-committee deems that the subject matter of the discussion in a public hearing may endanger national security or may be offensive to decency or public morals, it shall conduct the meeting in an executive session.

When a committee decides to hold an executive meeting, only those persons specifically authorized by the committee shall be admitted to the meeting. They shall preserve the confidentiality of everything read or discussed in the meeting.

Section 38. *Public Hearings.* – Committees and sub-committees may hold public hearings on any measure: *Provided*, That the measure is made available to the public and notices are issued in writing and, as far as practicable, through electronic mail or through the House website three (3) days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

Section 39. *Committee Reports and Orders.* – Committee reports or orders on any bill, resolution, speech, message, memorial or petition shall be considered in formal meetings and approved by a majority of the Members present, there being a quorum. A committee report, once approved, shall be signed by the chairperson of the committee.

In cases of joint referrals, committee reports shall be approved in the joint meeting by a majority of the Members present in each committee, there being a quorum. The committee report shall be signed by the chairpersons of the committees concerned.

Once a committee report is approved, the report and the corresponding measure it covers shall no longer be subject to any change, amendment or alteration, except correction(s) of typographical error(s).

Technical working groups may be created and tasked to ensure that measures and their corresponding committee reports are carefully crafted and faithfully express the ideas, sentiments and consensus of the committee relative to said measures and reports.

When a committee submits a report, a Member thereof shall be presumed to have concurred with the report and shall be precluded from opposing the same during plenary debate unless the Member files an objection or dissenting vote in writing with the Secretary General within seven (7) calendar days from the inclusion thereof in the Order of Business, or is allowed to do so by the Speaker upon satisfactory explanation in writing made by the Member within

the same period: *Provided*, However that the foregoing provision does not apply to a member of the committee who did not vote in the affirmative or was absent with explanation during the voting. Dissenting opinion(s), if any, shall, as far as practicable, be attached to the committee report.

Section 40. *Reconsideration.* – When a measure is adopted or lost, a Member of the committee who voted with the majority may move for its reconsideration during the same meeting or on the same or succeeding day after the meeting, in which case the motion for reconsideration shall be made in writing. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be allowed.

Section 41. *Reports of the Committee on Rules.* – The Committee on Rules may meet any time and report on any matter within its jurisdiction or referred to it by the House for its determination. The consideration of its reports shall always be in order.

RULE X

Bills, Resolutions, Messages, Memorials and Petitions

Section 42. *Bills and Resolutions.* – Bills and resolutions shall be signed by their author(s) and, together with an electronic copy thereof, filed with the Secretary General, who shall assign a number to each bill or resolution. The Secretary General shall not receive a bill or resolution unless it is accompanied by an electronic copy thereof. In case of any discrepancy between the printed and the electronic copies of the bill or resolution, the printed copy shall be followed.

The Secretary General shall thereafter transmit the bill or resolution to the Committee on Rules which shall, through the Majority Leader, determine the appropriate committee(s) to which the bill or resolution shall be referred: *Provided*, That at the opening of a Congress, pending the organization of the Committee on Rules, the acting Floor Leader shall determine the appropriate committees to which measures shall be referred.

Members who are refiling bills and resolutions that were filed in previous Congresses by other Members of the House shall

acknowledge and recognize the latter as prior authors thereof in the explanatory notes of the refiled bills and resolutions.

A bill or resolution shall have only one (1) subject matter that shall be expressed in the title thereof. In case a bill or resolution has more than one (1) subject matter, the Committee on Rules, through the Majority Leader, shall immediately inform the author(s) thereof so that appropriate changes or amendments can be made.

In cases of bills of local application seeking the establishment of the same kind of facilities or the delivery of the same services or the grant of the same assistance and privileges to various local government units within the same legislative district or province filed by the same author(s), the Secretary General, for the purpose of reporting these bills for First Reading, may make a summary statement on the titles thereof citing such similar facilities, services, assistance or privileges sought to be provided to various recipients, and the numbers assigned thereto proceeding from the number assigned to the bill first filed up to the number assigned to the bill last filed.

Measures submitted to the House through people's initiative shall be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

Section 43. First Reading. – The Secretary General shall report all bills and resolutions to the House for First Reading within three (3) session days from receipt thereof. The First Reading shall involve only the reading of the number, title and author of the bill or resolution, followed by the referral thereof by the Speaker to the appropriate committee. During the First Reading, the principal author may propose the inclusion of additional authors by submitting their names to the Secretary General or by making appropriate motions in plenary session.

In case of measures reported out by a committee after conducting, *motu proprio*, hearings or inquiries on issues and concerns within its jurisdiction in accordance with *Section 26* hereof, the referral thereof to the Committee on Rules shall be considered its First Reading.

Section 44. Referral to Committee. – As a general rule, a bill or resolution shall be referred to only one (1) committee.

Whenever a bill or resolution covers a subject matter that relates to the jurisdiction of more than one (1) committee, it shall be referred to the committee whose jurisdiction the subject matter directly and principally relates to: *Provided*, That if the bill or joint resolution entails the appropriation of public funds or contains tax or revenue proposals, the committee to which the bill or joint resolution is referred shall subsequently refer the same to the Committee on Appropriations and/or the Committee on Ways and Means, as the case may be, for actions relative to the appropriation or tax or revenue aspects only. The committee to which the bill or joint resolution is referred shall be principally responsible for submitting a report to the House. It may incorporate therein the recommendations of the Committee on Appropriations and/or the Committee on Ways and Means, as the case may be: *Provided*, That if there is dissenting action from the Committee on Appropriations and/or the Committee on Ways and Means, as the case may be, the same shall be attached as an annex to the committee report to be submitted by the committee of referral. In case of bills of local application transmitted to the Committee on Appropriations for comments relative to the funding provision, the chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations may act on the same: *Provided*, That the chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations shall furnish the Members of the committee a list of these bills.

A committee to which a bill or resolution is referred may request, through its chairperson, another committee, through its chairperson, for comments on a bill or resolution pending before it and, subject to the consent of the latter, await such comments within a period mutually agreed upon before preparing the committee report on the bill or resolution.

Section 45. Change of Referral. – The chairperson of a committee to which a bill or resolution is referred may make a written request to the Committee on Rules for a change of referral of such bill or resolution. The Committee on Rules shall decide on the request within a reasonable time from receipt thereof.

Section 46. *Consolidation or Substitution.* – A committee may decide to approve a bill or resolution with or without amendments, a substitute bill or resolution, or a consolidated bill or resolution. A substitute measure of a bill or resolution shall have as author/s the author/s of the original bill or resolution. A consolidated bill or resolution or a substitute measure covering two (2) or more bills or resolutions shall have as authors those of the original bills or resolutions in the order in which their names appear in the bills or resolutions and according to the dates of filing of the bills and resolutions or the numbers assigned to them. The names of the committee chairpersons, other Members of the committee and other Members of the House may, thereafter, be listed as co-authors of the measure if they so desire.

In case of two (2) or more bills or resolutions on the same subject matter with conflicting provisions, the author of the measure which provisions are substantially adopted in the consolidated or substitute measure shall be considered as the principal author thereof.

Section 47. *Status of Measures.* – The Committees shall provide periodic updates to Members on the status of measures referred to them by posting the same in the House website and, as far as practicable, through electronic mail.

Section 48. *Bills and Resolutions Favorably Acted Upon.* – When a committee action on a bill or resolution is favorable, the bill or resolution and the corresponding report together with other supporting documents and information materials shall, together with electronic copies thereof, be filed with the Secretary General, who shall assign a number to the report. Thereafter, the sponsoring committee shall transmit the same to the Committee on Rules in such number of copies as required by said committee together with the electronic copy thereof.

In case of bills or resolutions that are identified as priority measures of the House, which were previously filed in the immediately preceding Congress and have been approved on Third Reading, the same may be disposed of as matters already reported upon the

approval of majority of the Members of the committee present, there being a quorum.

In case of local bills which were previously filed in the immediately preceding Congress and have been approved on Third Reading, the same may be disposed of as matters already reported upon the approval of majority of the Members of the committee present, there being a quorum.

The committee secretary shall immediately prepare the necessary committee reports on said measures for inclusion in the Calendar of Business.

Section 49. *Bills Unfavorably Acted Upon.* – When a committee action on a bill or resolution is unfavorable, the bill or resolution shall be laid on the table. The author(s) shall be notified in writing and, as far as practicable, through electronic mail of the action within five (5) days after the bill or resolution has been laid on the table, stating the reason(s) therefor.

Section 50. *Discharge of Committees.* – Any Member may present to the Secretary General a motion in writing to discharge a committee from the consideration of a bill or resolution referred to it if such committee fails to act thereon after more than thirty (30) session days from its referral. The motion shall be placed in the custody of the Secretary General who shall arrange a convenient place where Members can affix their signatures. A signature may be withdrawn by a Member in writing at any time before the motion is entered in the Journal. When one-fifth (1/5) of all the Members sign the motion, it shall be included in the Calendar of Business and reported in the next session of the House.

Section 51. *Consideration of Motion to Discharge.* – After the Privilege Hour on any Monday, except during the last fifteen (15) days of a regular session, any Member who signed a motion to discharge may demand its consideration. The House shall proceed to vote on the motion after debate thereon for a period not exceeding thirty (30) minutes.

If a motion to discharge is adopted, a motion to proceed to the immediate consideration of such bill or resolution shall be in order; and if such motion prevails, the bill or resolution shall be considered immediately. If a motion to discharge is lost, it shall not be in order to entertain any other motion to discharge the same committee or any other committee from the consideration of the same bill or any other bill with substantially the same subject matter during the same session year. After the House acts on the motion to discharge, all other motions to discharge relating to bills or resolutions with similar subject matter which are pending in the Calendar of Business shall be stricken off the Calendar and shall not be acted upon for the remainder of the same session year.

Section 52. *Urgent Bills and Resolutions.* – The Committee on Rules, through the Majority Leader, may, at any time declare a bill or resolution urgent. It shall prepare a timetable which shall fix the date when the bill or resolution must be reported by the committee concerned, the number of days or hours to be allotted for the consideration of the bill or resolution in plenary session, and the date and hour debate must be concluded and final vote taken.

Section 53. *Second Reading and Debate.* – A bill or joint resolution on Second Reading shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members. The bill or joint resolution shall be subject to debate and pertinent motions. Debate shall begin with the sponsorship speech of the chairperson of the sponsoring committee or by any duly designated Member thereof, followed by those of the authors of the measure, if they desire to do so.

Section 54. *Cloture.* – When a matter under consideration has been sufficiently discussed by a Member who has the floor or when a question on any matter has been asked repeatedly, and there are several Members who have signified their intention to speak on the same matter, the Speaker may, *motu proprio* or upon motion of a Member, order the Member having the floor to desist from speaking further so that other Members may be given the opportunity to speak.

Section 55. *Motion to Close Debate.* – A motion to close the debate on a measure shall be in order after three (3) speeches in favor and two (2) against, or after only one (1) speech in favor and none against: *Provided*, That within the last fifteen (15) days before adjournment, a motion to close debate on a measure shall be in order after two (2) speeches in favor and one (1) against, or after only one (1) speech in favor and none against.

Section 56. *Amendments.* – After the close of debate, the House shall proceed to the consideration of committee amendments subject to the five-minute rule. A Member who desires to speak against a committee amendment shall also have five (5) minutes.

After the committee amendments, individual amendments shall be considered and shall likewise be subject to the five-minute rule. The five-minute rule shall also apply in the consideration of an amendment to an amendment, or of an amendment by substitution.

Section 57. *Approval of Bill or Joint Resolution on Second Reading; Adoption of Resolution.* – After the amendments are acted upon and the period of amendments is closed, the House shall vote on the bill or joint resolution on Second Reading or vote on the adoption of a resolution, as the case may be.

Bills and resolutions of local application under the Calendar of Business may be summarily approved on Second Reading through an omnibus motion of the Majority Leader citing the numbers assigned thereto and the page(s) of the Calendar of Business on which they are listed.

Section 58. *Third Reading.* – A bill or joint resolution approved on Second Reading shall be included in the Calendar of Bills and Joint Resolutions for Third Reading. On the Third Reading of a bill or joint resolution, no amendment thereto shall be allowed. Nominal voting thereon shall be done immediately and the result shall be entered in the Journal. Explanation of votes shall be allowed only after the announcement by the Secretary General of the results of the nominal voting: *Provided*, That no other motions shall be considered until after the explanation of votes, if any.

No bill or joint resolution shall become law unless it passes three (3) readings on separate days and printed copies thereof in its final form are distributed to the Members three (3) days before its passage except when the President certifies to the necessity of its immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency.

Section 59. *Recommitment of Measure.* – A bill and joint resolution reported out may be recommitted to the originating committee before its approval on Second Reading.

Section 60. *Transmittal to the Senate.* – The Secretary General shall transmit to the Senate for its concurrence all bills and joint or concurrent resolutions approved by the House and the amendments of the House to the bills or resolutions of the Senate. If the measures approved without amendment are bills or resolutions of the Senate, or if amendments of the Senate to bills of the House are accepted, the Secretary General shall forthwith notify the Senate of the actions taken: *Provided*, That such transmittal by the Secretary General to the Senate of measures passed by the House shall be made only after the lapse of the reglementary period within which a Member can file a motion for reconsideration.

Section 61. *Measures from the Senate.* – Bills and resolutions from the Senate shall be referred to and shall be acted upon by the appropriate committee in the same manner as bills and resolutions presented by Members of the House.

In cases where the Senate bills and resolutions are substantially the same as House bills or resolutions previously reported by a House committee, these may be disposed of as such measures entered in the record of matters already reported.

If the House bill or resolution is on Second Reading, the House may, during the period of amendments, adopt the provisions of the Senate measure as an amendment to the House bill or resolution.

If the House bill or resolution is on Third Reading, the House may reconsider its approval on Second Reading. Thereafter, the House

may, during the period of amendments, adopt the provisions of the Senate measure as an amendment to the House Bill or resolution.

Bills or resolutions of the House with the amendments of the Senate, as well as Senate bills or resolutions which are substantially the same as House bills or resolutions previously approved, may be disposed of immediately as pending matters. The House may concur with the Senate amendments to the House bill or resolution or adopt the Senate bill or resolution as the House version of the measure.

Section 62. Conference Committee. – In cases where the House does not agree with the Senate on any amendment to any House bill or joint resolution, or where the Senate has approved a similar bill to a House-approved bill, and these measures have conflicting provisions, differences may be settled by conference committees composed of representatives from both chambers.

In resolving the differences between the two measures, the House panel shall, as much as possible, adhere to and support the House bill or joint resolution. If the differences with the Senate bill or joint resolution are so substantial that they materially impair the House bill or joint resolution, the panel shall report such fact to the House for the latter's appropriate action.

The Speaker shall appoint the Members of the House panel in a conference committee whose names shall be manifested in open session and entered in the Journal: *Provided*, That the chairperson of the committee that reported out the bill or joint resolution under consideration and the principal author(s) thereof shall be Members of the House panel; and *Provided further*, That equitable representation of the Majority and the Minority in the panel shall be ensured.

Section 63. Conference Committee Reports. – The conference committee shall finalize a report within sixty (60) session days from the date of its organization. Otherwise, the Members of the House panel shall submit a report to the House explaining why the conference committee is unable to prepare a report.

A conference committee report shall be signed by a majority of the Members of both panels on the last page and every page

thereof. The report shall contain a clear and detailed statement of the changes in or amendments to the subject measures. Copies of the original measures approved by the House and the Senate shall be attached to the report. The report shall be filed with the Secretary General together with an electronic copy thereof.

The consideration of conference committee reports shall always be in order, except when the Journal is being read, while the roll is being called, or the House is dividing on any question.

The consideration of the conference committee report shall not be in order unless copies thereof are distributed to the Members: *Provided*, That in the last fifteen (15) days of each session period, it shall be deemed sufficient that three (3) copies of the report, together with an electronic copy thereof, are filed with the office of the Secretary General.

A conference committee report shall be ratified by a majority vote of the Members of the House present, there being a quorum.

Section 64. Enrollment of Bills and Joint Resolutions. – The Speaker shall order the enrollment of approved bills or joint resolutions within three (3) days after final approval by both Houses. The Bills and Index Service and the secretariat of the committee(s) that reported out the bill shall ensure that the bill is in the correct form and contains the provisions approved by both Houses.

The enrolled bill or joint resolution shall be signed within five (5) working days by the Speaker and the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall report to the House the time of presentation of the bill or joint resolution to the President and the record thereof shall be entered in the Journal.

Upon the lapse of thirty (30) days from receipt of the bill or joint resolution by the Office of the President, and no communication of a veto made thereon by the President is received by the House within the same period, the Secretary General shall certify to this fact which shall be recorded in the Journal.

Section 65. *Action by the President.* – Every bill or joint resolution passed by Congress shall be presented to the President for approval. If the President approves the bill or joint resolution, the President shall sign it; otherwise, the President shall veto it and return the same to the House together with the specific objections. The President shall communicate the veto on any bill or joint resolution to the House within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof, otherwise, it shall become a law as if it was signed.

Section 66. *Procedure on Vetoed Bills and Joint Resolutions.* – If the President vetoes a bill or joint resolution, or any part thereof, the House shall record the objections of the President in the Journal and may proceed to reconsider the bill or joint resolution, or item(s) thereof that were vetoed. During reconsideration, the House shall proceed to nominal voting on the bill or joint resolution, or the vetoed item(s) thereof. The affirmative and negative votes with the names of the Members voting shall be recorded in the Journal. If the bill or joint resolution, or vetoed item(s) is passed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all Members of each House, the bill or joint resolution vetoed by the President, or the bill or joint resolution with vetoed item(s) shall become a law.

Section 67. *Procedure for Resolutions.* – Resolutions shall be subject to the same procedure as bills regarding introduction, reference to the appropriate committee, and consideration: *Provided*, That the Committee on Rules may calendar any resolution for immediate consideration by the House for reasons of urgency.

Section 68. *Messages.* – Messages from the President of the Philippines and the Senate shall be reported to the House and when necessary, referred to the appropriate committees.

Section 69. *Communications, Memorials and Petitions.* – Communications from heads of departments of the Executive and the Judiciary, memorials and petitions shall be reported to the House and, when necessary, referred to the appropriate committee(s).

RULE XI

The Session

Section 70. Commencement of Daily Sessions. – Daily sessions shall commence at three o'clock (3:00) in the afternoon on Mondays through Thursdays, and if necessary, every Friday at ten o'clock (10:00) in the morning, unless the House decides otherwise.

Section 71. Attendance in Sessions. – Every Member shall be present in all sessions of the House unless prevented from doing so by sickness or other unavoidable circumstances duly reported to the House through the Secretary General.

While the House is in session, the following shall be deemed present:

- a. Members who are attending committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules, in accordance with *Section 35* hereof, upon written notification to the Secretary General by the concerned committee secretary;
- b. Members who are attending meetings of:
 - b.1. The Commission on Appointments;
 - b.2. The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal; and
 - b.3. Bicameral Conference Committees
- c. Members who are on official mission as approved by the Speaker.

Section 72. Order of Business. – The daily Order of Business shall be as follows:

- a. Roll call;
- b. Approval of the Journal of the previous session;
- c. First Reading of bills and resolutions;
- d. Referral of committee reports, messages, communications, petitions and memorials;
- e. Unfinished Business;

- f. Business for the Day;
- g. Business for a Certain Date;
- h. Business for Thursday and Friday;
- i. Bills and Joint Resolutions for Third Reading; and
- j. Unassigned Business.

The daily Order of Business shall be posted in the House website and, as far as practicable, sent through electronic mail to the Members one (1) hour before the commencement of session.

Section 73. *Call to Order.* – The Speaker shall call the House to order. After calling the House to order, the National Anthem shall be sung followed by an invocation by a Member designated by the Speaker or by a silent prayer.

Section 74. *Roll Call.* – The names of Members shall be called by surnames alphabetically. When two (2) or more Members have the same surnames, the full name of each shall be called. If there are two (2) or more Members with the same names and surnames, their legislative districts or party-list affiliations shall also be called.

Section 75. *Quorum.* – A majority of all the Members of the House shall constitute a quorum. The House shall not transact business without a quorum. A Member who questions the existence of a quorum shall not leave the session hall until the question is resolved or acted upon, otherwise, the question shall be deemed abandoned.

Section 76. *Absence of Quorum.* – In the absence of a quorum after the roll call, the Members present may compel the attendance of absent Members.

In all calls of the House, the doors shall be closed. Except those who are excused from attendance in accordance with *Section 71* hereof, the absent Members, by order of a majority of those present, shall be sent for and arrested wherever they may be found and conducted to the session hall in custody in order to secure their attendance at the session. The order shall be executed by the Sergeant-at-Arms and by such officers as the Speaker may designate. After the presence of the Members arrested is secured at the session

hall, the Speaker shall determine the conditions for their discharge. Members who voluntarily appear shall be admitted immediately to the session hall and shall report to the Secretary General to have their presence recorded.

Section 77. *Automatic Call of the House.* – When results of the voting on a question shows the absence of a quorum and a Member calls the attention of the House to this fact, there shall be a call of the House to compel attendance of absent Members who shall be given the opportunity to vote unless the House adjourns.

If those voting on the question and those who are present but abstain from or do not participate in the voting should, together, constitute a majority of the House, the Speaker shall declare that a quorum is present, and pending questions shall be resolved as the majority of those voting shall decide. Thereupon, further proceedings under the call shall be dispensed with.

Section 78. *Motion to Adjourn Vacates Call.* – At any time after the roll call is completed, a motion to adjourn shall be in order and, if approved by a majority of those present, all proceedings under the preceding section shall be vacated.

Section 79. *Approval of Journal.* – The Journal shall be submitted to the House for approval. Prior to approval, the Journal shall be read in full unless copies thereof have been distributed to the Members. Upon approval, the Journal shall be posted in the House website and, as far as practicable, sent to the Members through electronic mail. The Journal for the last day of a regular or special session shall be approved in the manner determined by the House.

Section 80. *Calendar of Business.* – The Calendar of Business shall consist of the following:

- a. *Unfinished Business.* – This is business being considered by the House at the time of its last adjournment. Its consideration shall be resumed until it is disposed of.

The Unfinished Business at the end of a session shall be resumed at the commencement of the next session as if no

adjournment has taken place. At the end of the term of a Congress, all unfinished business are deemed terminated.

- b. *Business for the Day.* – These are bills, resolutions and other measures set on the Calendar of Business for the Day by the Committee on Rules. They shall be considered, as far as practicable, in the order in which they are listed in the Calendar of Business and after the Unfinished Business.
- c. *Business for a Certain Date.* – This is business set for consideration on a certain date. Measures shall be considered in chronological order until disposed of on the date set and on subsequent days unless the continuation of the consideration of any business therein included is set for another day. No business in this Calendar of Business shall be set for consideration unless it has been placed therein two (2) session days prior to such consideration.
- d. *Business for Thursday and Friday.* – These are bills, resolutions and other measures of local application set on the Calendar for Thursday and Friday. Such bills and resolutions shall be arranged and considered in the order set by the Committee on Rules.
- e. *Bills and Joint Resolutions on Third Reading.* – Bills and Joint Resolutions shall be submitted to final vote by nominal voting after printed copies thereof in final form have been distributed to the Members at least three (3) days prior to the final vote thereon except when the President certifies to the necessity of their immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency.
- f. *Unassigned Business.* – Bills, resolutions, and other measures reported out by the committees but not calendared for Second Reading by the Committee on Rules may be included in the Calendar of Unassigned Business. Any business included in this Calendar may be set for consideration on motion of a Member with the unanimous approval of the

House: *Provided*, That it shall be included in the Calendar of Business at least two (2) days prior to such consideration.

The Calendar of Business shall be distributed each day of session, posted in the House website and, as far as practicable, sent through electronic mail to the Members before the commencement of session unless there is no addition to the one previously distributed, in which case a note to this effect on the Order of Business shall be sufficient.

Section 81. *Voting*. – Every Member present shall vote on every question unless a Member inhibits from voting on account of personal or pecuniary interest therein. The names of Members who abstain, inhibit themselves or opt not to vote shall be entered in the Journal of the House.

Section 82. *Sessions Open to the Public*. – Sessions shall be open to the public. However, when the security of the State or the dignity of the House or any of its Members are affected by any motion or petition being considered, the House may hold executive sessions.

Guests and visitors in the galleries are prohibited from using their cameras and video recorders. Cellular phones and other similar electronic devices shall be put in silent mode.

Section 83. *Executive Sessions*. – When the House decides to hold an executive session, the Speaker shall direct the galleries and hallways to be cleared and the doors closed. Only the Secretary General, the Sergeant-at-Arms and other persons specifically authorized by the House shall be admitted to the executive session. They shall preserve the confidentiality of everything read or discussed in the session.

Section 84. *Confidential Documents*. – The contents of confidential documents transmitted by the President or a head of a department of the Executive Department, as requested by the House, which require consideration in an executive session, shall not be revealed without leave of the House.

Section 85. *Suspension, Adjournment and Cancellation of Sessions.* – Sessions shall not be adjourned except by direction of the House. The Speaker may declare a suspension or recess of short interval at any time.

In cases of natural calamities and other fortuitous events of such nature as to render the attendance of Members to sessions of the House or the conduct of such sessions extremely difficult or impossible, the Speaker may declare the cancellation of the conduct of sessions on any given period of time.

Section 86. *Emergency Session.* – The House, if not in session, shall convene without need of a call within twenty-four (24) hours following the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* or the occurrence of any national emergency.

Section 87. *Convening of the House During a Recess.* – The Speaker, in consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders and their Senate counterparts, may convene the House in session at any time during a recess or between sessions to consider urgent legislative matters or concerns.

Section 88. *Opening and Adjournment of Sessions.* – The exact hour of opening and adjournment of a session shall be entered in the Journal.

RULE XII

Conduct of Plenary Sessions through Electronic Platforms

Section 89. *Conduct of Sessions through Electronic Platforms.* – In cases when the attendance of Members in sessions becomes extremely difficult or impossible – such as on occasions of natural calamities, pandemics, strikes, riots, and civil disturbances, whether fortuitous or not – and there is urgent necessity to act on any measure, the Speaker, in consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders, may authorize the conduct of sessions through electronic

platforms like video conference, telecommunications and other computer online technologies.

Section 90. *Attendance.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of *Section 74* hereof, Members shall, as far as practicable, register their attendance by joining the virtual conference. This shall be verified and authenticated by the Secretary General.

Members who are unable to join the virtual conference due to technical reasons or those who are performing official tasks as authorized by the Speaker and subject to *Section 71* hereof, may register their attendance through mobile phones or other electronic accounts previously registered with and verified by the Secretary General.

Section 91. *Nominal Voting.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of *Sections 58, 118 and 119* hereof, Members shall register their votes through virtual conference or through their respective mobile phone numbers or other electronic accounts previously submitted to and verified by the Secretary General.

RULE XIII

Decorum and Debate

Section 92. *Manner of Addressing the Chair.* – When any Member desires to speak or deliver any matter to the House, such Member shall rise and respectfully address the Chair as “Mister Speaker” or “Madam Speaker”, as the case may be.

Section 93. *Recognition of Member.* – The Chair shall recognize a Member who rises to speak. When two (2) or more Members rise at the same time, the Chair shall recognize who shall speak first: *Provided*, That as far as practicable, Members of the Majority and the Minority shall be allowed to speak alternately on the floor.

Section 94. *Time Limit.* – A Member shall not be allowed to speak for more than one (1) hour in debate on any question.

During budget deliberations, a Member shall not be allowed to speak for more than thirty (30) minutes in debate: *Provided*, That a second round of interpellations may be allowed upon motion of the Majority Leader.

No Member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the House, unless the Member is the proponent of the motion or has introduced the question or the matter pending, in which case the Member shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every Member who chooses to speak on the pending question or matter shall have spoken.

Section 95. *Sponsor to Open and Close Debate.* – The Member sponsoring a measure shall open and close the debate. If the debate extends beyond one (1) day without being closed, the Member shall be entitled to an additional thirty (30) minutes to close the debate.

Section 96. *Decorum.* – A Member who has the floor shall speak only on the question under debate, avoid personalities in all cases and refrain from indecorous words or acts. The Chair may, *motu proprio*, or as the House may direct, declare statements, remarks or words unparliamentary, and order that these be stricken off the record. A Member who calls to order another Member for words spoken in debate, shall indicate the words objected to. The Secretary General shall note and read aloud such words. However, the Member who is called to order shall not be held to answer nor be subject to censure by the House if further debate or other business intervenes.

Debate may include references to actions taken by the Senate or by committees thereof which are a matter of public record, references to the pendency or sponsorship in the Senate of bills, resolutions, and amendments, factual descriptions relating to Senate action or inaction concerning a measure then under debate in the House, and quotations from Senate proceedings on a measure then under debate in the House and which are relevant to the making of legislative history establishing the meaning of that measure, but may not include characterizations of Senate action or inaction, other references to individual Members of the Senate, or other quotations from Senate proceedings.

Section 97. Conduct and Attire During Sessions and Committee Meetings. – During sessions and committee meetings, Members shall wear the proper attire which is long sleeves *barong filipino* or coat and tie for men, or business suit for women, or the appropriate cultural attire for both men and women.

Wearing of the following are considered inappropriate for sessions and committee meetings:

1. Denim jeans;
2. Faded or distressed jeans; and
3. Sneakers

Officers and members of the secretariat shall wear *barong filipino* or coat and tie for men and *filipina* dress or business suit for women, or the prescribed official uniform during sessions and committee meetings.

Members shall not be allowed to stand near the Secretary General's desk during roll call or counting of votes, pass between the Chair and another Member who has the floor, walk out or walk across the session hall while the Speaker is addressing the House or putting a question. Cellular phones and other similar electronic devices shall be put in silent mode so as not to disrupt the proceedings.

Section 98. Smoking Prohibited. – Smoking is prohibited inside the session hall, conference rooms and other enclosed areas except in smoking areas designated as such by the Secretary General.

RULE XIV

Motions and Their Precedence

Section 99. Reading and Withdrawal of Motions. – The Speaker shall state the motion or, if in writing, shall direct the Secretary General to read the motion before being debated upon. A motion may be withdrawn any time before it is put to a vote.

Section 100. Precedence of Motions. – When a question is before

the body, the following motions shall be entertained and, subject to *Sections 58 and 120* of these Rules, shall take precedence in the following order:

- First - Motion to Adjourn;
- Second - Motion to Raise a Point of Order;
- Third - Motion to Raise a Question of Privilege;
- Fourth - Motion to Declare a Recess;
- Fifth - Motion for Reconsideration;
- Sixth - Motion to Lay on the Table;
- Seventh - Motion to Postpone to a Day Certain;
- Eighth - Motion to Refer to or to Re-Refer;
- Ninth - Motion to Amend; and
- Tenth - Motion to Postpone Indefinitely

The first seven (7) motions shall be decided without debate, while the last three (3) motions shall be decided subject to the five-minute rule: *Provided*, That during the last five (5) days before adjournment of every session period or during the last fifteen (15) days before adjournment of a regular session, a question of privilege shall only be entertained after the consideration of urgent measures pending in the Calendar of Business as determined by the Committee on Rules.

Section 101. *Prohibition of Riders.* – A motion on a subject matter that is different from that under consideration shall not be allowed under the guise of amendment.

Section 102. *One Motion for One Subject Matter.* – A motion shall cover only one (1) subject matter.

Section 103. *Point of Order.* – A Point of Order is a privileged question that raises a violation of the Rules in relation to the matter under discussion on the floor. A motion to read any part of the Rules is equivalent to a Point of Order and takes precedence over any motion other than a motion to adjourn.

Section 104. *Questions of Privilege.* – Questions of privilege are urgent matters directly and principally affecting the duties, conduct,

rights, privileges, dignity, integrity or reputation of the House or of its Members, individually or collectively. Subject to the ten-minute rule, every Member has the right to raise a question of personal or collective privilege. However, prior to availing of this right, a Member shall seek the permission of the Chair which shall, in turn, allow the Member to proceed upon a determination that the request is in order.

The presiding officer shall declare out of order a Member who, having previously registered for the Privilege Hour to speak on a specific subject matter, rises on a question of personal and collective privilege on the same subject matter. The presiding officer shall also declare out of order a Member who rises on a question of personal or collective privilege to speak on concerns that are principally and directly related to the subject matter of measures pending in any committee or in plenary session.

Section 105. *Reconsideration.* – When a measure, report or motion is approved, adopted or lost, a Member who voted with the majority may move for its reconsideration on the same or succeeding session day. Only one (1) motion for reconsideration shall be allowed. The motion for reconsideration shall take precedence over all other questions, except a motion to adjourn, a point of order, a question of privilege, and a motion to declare a recess. A bill, resolution, memorial or petition recommitted to a committee or ordered to be printed shall not be brought back to the House on a motion to reconsider.

Section 106. *Amendments.* – When any matter is under consideration, a motion to amend and a further motion to amend the amendatory motion shall be in order. When an amendment is rejected by the proponent of the original motion, the proponent of the amendment may appeal to the body. The proponent of the original motion and the proponent of the amendment may explain their positions, on appeal, subject to the five-minute rule. It shall also be in order to move for amendment by substitution of a specific provision, but said motion shall not be voted upon until the text of the original measure is perfected.

A motion by the Majority Leader to amend by substitution of the entire bill or joint resolution shall precede consideration of individual amendments to the bill or joint resolution under consideration.

Any amendment may be withdrawn any time before a vote is taken thereon.

Section 107. *Amendment of Title.* – Amendment(s) to the title of a bill or resolution shall be in order only after amendment(s) to the text thereof have been completed. Amendment(s) to the title shall be decided without debate.

Section 108. *Motion to Strike and Insert.* – A motion to strike and insert is indivisible. The loss of a pure motion to strike shall not preclude an amendment or a motion to strike and insert.

Section 109. *Motion to Postpone.* – After a motion to postpone to any day certain or to postpone indefinitely is lost, such motion shall not again be allowed on the same day.

Section 110. *Vote on Paper Objected To.* – A vote shall be taken without debate on a motion to read a paper other than that which the House is called to vote upon.

Section 111. *Appeal from Ruling of the Chair.* – Any Member may appeal from the ruling of the Chair and may be recognized by the Chair, even though another Member has the floor. No appeal is in order when another appeal is pending. The Member making the appeal shall state the reasons for the appeal subject to the five-minute rule. The Chair shall state the reasons for the ruling and forthwith submit the question to the body. An appeal cannot be amended and shall yield only to a motion to adjourn, to a point of order, to a question of personal privilege or to recess. A majority vote of the Members present and voting, there being a quorum, shall decide any appeal. In case of a tie vote, the appeal is lost. If an appeal is laid on the table, the ruling of the Chair remains in effect.

Section 112. *Recording of Motions.* – Every motion and the name of the proponent thereof shall be entered in the Journal unless the motion is withdrawn on the same day.

RULE XV

Suspension of the Rules

Section 113. *Authority to Move.* – Only the Committee on Rules can move for the suspension of the rules.

Section 114. *Vote Requirement.* – A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present, there being a quorum, is required to suspend any rule.

Section 115. *Interruption of Motion.* – When a motion to suspend the rules is pending, one (1) motion to adjourn may be entertained. If the latter is lost, no similar motion shall be entertained until the vote is taken on the motion to suspend the rules.

Section 116. *Debate; Effect of Suspension.* – A motion to suspend the rules for the passage of a measure may be debated on for one (1) hour, which shall be divided equally between those in favor and those against.

The House shall proceed to consider the measure after voting to suspend the rules. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present, there being a quorum, shall be necessary for the passage of said measure.

RULE XVI

Voting

Section 117. *Manner of Voting.* – The Speaker shall rise and state the motion or question that is being put to a vote in clear, precise and simple language. The Speaker shall say “as many as are in favor, (*as the question may be*) say ‘aye’”. After the affirmative vote is counted, the Speaker shall say “as many as are opposed, (*as the question may be*) say ‘nay’”.

If the Speaker doubts the result of the voting or a motion to divide the House is carried, the House shall divide. The Speaker shall ask those in favor to rise, to be followed by those against. If still in doubt of the outcome or a count by tellers is demanded, the Speaker shall name one (1) Member from each side of the question to count

the Members in the affirmative and those in the negative. After the count is reported, the Speaker shall announce the result.

An abstention shall not be counted as a vote. Unless otherwise provided by the Constitution or by these rules, a majority of those voting, there being a quorum, shall decide the issue.

Section 118. *Nominal Voting.* – Upon motion of a Member, duly approved by one-fifth (1/5) of the Members present, there being a quorum, nominal voting on any question may be called. In case of nominal voting, the Secretary General shall call, in alphabetical order, the names of the Members who shall state their vote as their names are called.

Section 119. *Second Call on Nominal Voting.* – A second call on nominal voting shall be made to allow Members who did not vote during the first call to vote. Members who fail to vote during the second call shall no longer be allowed to vote.

Section 120. *Explanation of Vote.* – During nominal voting, the vote made may be explained by the concerned Member in not more than three (3) minutes: *Provided*, That in case of approval on Third Reading of bills and joint resolutions, explanation of vote shall be allowed only after the announcement by the Secretary General of the results of nominal voting thereon; *Provided further*, That no other motions shall be considered until after the explanation of votes, if any.

Section 121. *No Interruption During Voting.* – The voting shall not be interrupted by any other business or question.

Section 122. *Tie Vote.* – The Speaker shall vote only in case of a tie. A tie on an appeal from the ruling of the Chair sustains the decision of the Chair.

Section 123. *Recording of Results of Nominal Voting.* – The affirmative and negative votes on any question subject to nominal voting shall be entered in the Journal.

RULE XVII

Privilege Hour

Section 124. Day for Privilege Hour. – On Mondays, after the First Reading and referral to committees of bills, proposed resolutions, messages, communications, petitions and memorials, there shall be, without extension, a Privilege Hour which shall not be interrupted by any question or motion except a point of order or a motion to adjourn: *Provided*, That in exceptional circumstances where the person or integrity of a Member or the integrity of the House is in clear danger of, or has been inflicted with, such grave harm or injury, a question of personal or collective privilege may be allowed to interrupt the Privilege Hour.

Upon the unanimous consent of the House, the Privilege Hour, having expired, may be continued after the consideration of the Business for the Day. On any other day, upon the unanimous consent of the House, there shall be a Privilege Hour after the consideration of the Business for the Day.

During the last five (5) days before adjournment of every session period or during the last fifteen (15) days before adjournment of a regular session, the availment of the Privilege Hour shall be suspended upon motion of the Majority Leader to ensure the consideration of urgent measures pending in the Calendar of Business as determined by the Committee on Rules.

Any Member may speak on any matter of general interest. If more than one (1) Member desires to make use of this privilege, the first to register, either in writing with the Committee on Rules or verbally in open session, shall be given precedence. If sufficient time is left of the hour after a Member finished speaking, the next Member who registered to speak may do so, and so on until the full hour is consumed. If requests to make use of the Privilege Hour remain recorded at the expiration of the hour, they shall be recorded in the same order for the next Monday, or for such other day that a Privilege Hour is conducted, as the case may be.

Members shall not avail of the Privilege Hour to speak on concerns that are principally and directly related to the subject matter of measures already pending in any committee or in plenary session.

Any member availing of the Privilege Hour shall, as far as practicable, submit a copy of the privilege speech upon registration with the Committee on Rules. If the Member wishes to make audio-visual presentation in the course of the Member's privilege speech, the Member shall submit an electronic copy of the audio-visual presentation to the Majority Leader before the intended date of availment of the Privilege Hour.

RULE XVIII

Question Hour

Section 125. *Appearance Upon Initiative of Department Head of the Executive Department.* – When a department head desires to appear before the House on any matter pertaining to the concerned department, the department head may, with the consent of the President of the Philippines, notify the House through the Speaker, who, with the concurrence of the House, may set the date and hour of the appearance.

Section 126. *Appearance Upon Request of the House.* – A department head may be requested to appear before the House and be heard on any matter pertaining to the concerned department. The request shall state specifically the questions to be answered and the date and hour for the appearance of the department head. Such appearance shall be scheduled at least three (3) days from receipt of the request.

The Order of Business shall specify the subject of the questions, the department head requested to answer them, and the proponent(s) thereof.

Section 127. *Day of Appearance.* – The appearance of department heads shall be scheduled on any Wednesday or on such other day(s)

as may be determined by the Speaker or a majority of the Members of the House. The department head may answer the questions of the House Members either verbally or in writing. Interpellations of Members shall not be limited to the written questions but may cover matters related thereto. Such interpellations shall conform with the standards for questions herein provided. The questions and answers shall be recorded in the Journal.

Section 128. *Appearance in Executive Session.* – The appearance of a department head shall be conducted in an executive session when the security of the State or the public interest require and the President so states in writing.

Section 129. *Questions.* – Written questions shall be submitted to the Speaker in triplicate. Questions of an urgent nature or those relating to current issues shall be given priority. Questions may be withdrawn by the proponent when no answer has yet been made. The withdrawal shall be in writing, addressed to the Speaker, and submitted before the day of the scheduled appearance.

Section 130. *Standards Set for Questions.* – Questions shall be based on facts, and asked to obtain information or press for action. No question shall:

- a. be argumentative;
- b. suggest its own answer;
- c. include offensive or unparliamentary language or expressions;
- d. pertain to *sub judice* matters;
- e. seek an opinion on a question of law;
- f. include names or statements other than what is strictly necessary to make the question intelligible;
- g. relate to matters directly under the responsibility of another department head;
- h. refer to an item of the agenda of the current month's session or to proceedings of a committee not yet reported;
- i. suggest amendments to bills before the House of Representatives; or
- j. repeat a question previously asked and answered.

Section 131. *Form of Questions and Answers.* – In form, questions and answers of excessive length are not in order.

Section 132. *Questions not Conforming with Standards.* – If the questions do not conform with the foregoing standards, the Speaker shall return them to the Member concerned and the latter may modify or restate the questions to make them conform with the said standards or appeal the action of the Speaker to the House. Said appeal shall be resolved like all other appeals from the rulings of the chair.

Section 133. *Classification and Disposition of Questions.* – Questions may be classified and grouped together by subject matter by the Speaker who shall decide the order in which the said questions are to be dealt with. During the appearance of the department head, the Speaker shall direct the Secretary General to read the questions according to their precedence, the name of the proponent and the department head to whom the question is directed.

Section 134. *Standards for Answers.* – Answers should be directly related to the questions propounded without need for discussing general policies or programs, concise, responsive and should not be argumentative. They should conform with the standards set for questions, where these are applicable.

Section 135. *Questions of Local Significance.* – The Speaker may direct that questions of local significance be answered in writing only.

Section 136. *Unanswered Questions.* – Questions that are left unanswered may be answered in writing or, where necessary, during a day set aside by the Speaker before the next Question Hour or at any succeeding Question Hour. Questions not taken due to the absence of both the proponent and the department head shall be taken at any other day.

Section 137. *Interpellations and Comments of Proponents of Original Questions.* – At the end of every Question Hour, it shall be in order for any proponent of the original questions to interpellate the department head concerned and make comments, observations

and statements relative to the answers given. The interpellations and comments of the proponent shall be subject to the ten-minute rule.

Section 138. *Service Unit.* – A Service Unit shall be organized in the Committee on Rules to facilitate, coordinate and expedite all matters relative to the conduct of the Question Hour.

RULE XIX

Committee of the Whole House

Section 139. *Constituting the Committee.* – The House may constitute itself into a Committee of the Whole on motion of the Majority Leader to act upon a bill or resolution. When the House constitutes itself into a Committee of the Whole, it functions as one committee acting upon a bill or resolution, and conducting its proceedings like a regular committee with its membership composed of all the Members of the House.

If a motion to constitute the House into a Committee of the Whole is lost, a similar motion shall not be presented within the same session day.

Section 140. *Proceedings.* – The Speaker shall appoint a chairperson to preside over the committee.

The committee shall conduct business only when there is a quorum. If there is no quorum, the chairperson shall report the same and move that the committee immediately suspend its proceedings. The Speaker may take part in the proceedings. The Speaker and all the Members shall vote on all questions before the committee.

Documents and papers in the possession of the House may be called for by any Member and read by the Secretary General for the information of the committee unless the committee orders otherwise. Resource persons and/or technical assistants may be invited to attend the proceedings, and upon permission of the chairperson, may directly answer questions and inquiries propounded by Members.

The chairperson shall have the power to clear the session hall and the galleries in case of disturbance. The committee, however, cannot punish disorderly conduct of its Members but must report the same to the House for appropriate action.

The committee may, at any time during its proceedings, report to the House its desire to close the debate or to limit the time allowed for Members to speak.

The committee may, on motion, suspend consideration of any matter and to reconvene at any time to resume its proceedings. The motion shall take precedence over all motions and shall be immediately decided without debate. If the committee, for want of time, fails to complete deliberations on any matter under consideration, it may, on motion and at any time, recess and reconvene. A motion that the committee suspend its proceedings, reports progress and reconvenes, may be made at any time, and shall take precedence over all other motions. The motion shall be decided without debate.

When the Committee has disposed of bills, resolutions and other measures before it, on motion, it shall rise and the chairperson shall be instructed to report the action of the committee to the House. At this point, the Speaker shall reassume the chair, and the chairperson shall, thereafter, make a report to the House. Matters reported shall then be presented before the House for action as though reported by any other committee.

RULE XX ***Code of Conduct***

Section 141. *Code of Conduct.* – There is hereby established in the House the following Code of Conduct:

- a. A Member shall act at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House;
- b. A Member shall adhere to the spirit and the letter of the Rules of the House and to the rules of the committees;

- c. A Member may not receive compensation or any pecuniary interest and may not permit compensation or any pecuniary interest to accrue to the Member's beneficial interest from any source, the receipt of which would occur by virtue of influence improperly exerted from the Member's position in Congress;
- d. A Member shall not hold any other office or employment in the government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or subsidiaries, during the Member's term without forfeiting the Member's seat in the House;
- e. A Member shall not also be appointed to any office created or the emoluments thereof increased during the Member's term;
- f. A Member shall not personally appear as counsel before any court of justice, the electoral tribunals, or any quasi-judicial or administrative body or be directly or indirectly financially interested in any contract with, or in any franchise or special privilege granted by the government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or controlled corporation, or its subsidiaries, during the Member's term of office;
- g. A Member shall not intervene in any matter before any office of the government for personal pecuniary benefit or where the Member may be called upon to act on account of the Member's office;
- h. A Member shall not acquire or receive any personal pecuniary interest in any specific business enterprise which will be directly and particularly favored or benefited by any law or resolution authored by the Member that is approved or adopted by Congress during the Member's term. It shall be unlawful for the Member to continue to retain such interest thirty (30) days after such approval;

- i. A Member may not authorize or allow an individual, group or organization not under the direction and control of the House to use the words "Congress of the Philippines", "House of Representatives" or "Official Business", or any combination of these words, or the seal of the House of Representatives, or any other representation thereof on any letterhead or envelope or for any other purpose; and
- j. A Member shall not disclose any classified information received in the course of the service with the House of Representatives, except as authorized by the House of Representatives or in accordance with its Rules.

The House may, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Ethics, punish its Members for any violation of this Code of Conduct and for disorderly behavior.

Section 142. *Vote Requirement.* – The House may censure or reprimand an erring Member with the concurrence of the majority of all its Members. It may suspend or expel an erring Member with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of all its Members: *Provided*, That a penalty of suspension shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

RULE XXI

Proposals to Amend the Constitution

Section 143. *Proposals.* – The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all its Members, may propose amendment(s) to or revision of the Constitution.

Section 144. *Form of Proposals and Procedure for Adoption.* – Proposals to amend or revise the Constitution shall be by resolution which may be filed at any time by any Member. The adoption of resolutions proposing amendments to or revision of the Constitution shall follow the procedure for the enactment of bills.

Section 145. *Constitutional Convention.* – The Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all its Members, call a constitutional

convention or, by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention.

RULE XXII

Papers, Books and Records

Section 146. *Congressional Record.* – The Congressional Record shall be a substantially verbatim account of remarks made during the proceedings of the House, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the Member involved.

Section 147. *Delivery of Papers to Archives.* – All papers and records relating to the completed business of the House shall be delivered to, kept by and preserved in the Archives. All pending matters and proceedings shall terminate upon the expiration of the term of a Congress and the records pertaining thereto delivered to the Archives within fifteen (15) days after such expiration.

Section 148. *Duty of Committee Secretaries.* – Committee Secretaries shall, within seven (7) days after the enactment of bills or joint resolutions, and fifteen (15) days after final adjournment of Congress, deliver to the Archives all bills, resolutions, petitions and other papers referred to their respective committees including all records of proceedings, reports of investigations conducted, and all evidences taken by such committees together with the electronic copies thereof.

Upon neglect or failure of the Committee Secretaries to comply with this rule, the Secretary General shall, within seven (7) days thereafter, take custody of all such papers and may impose appropriate disciplinary action on concerned Committee Secretaries.

Section 149. *Records and Books Open to the Public.* – The records and books of accounts of the House including plenary records shall be preserved and be open to the public in accordance with law. Books of accounts of the House shall be available for audit by the Commission on Audit.

RULE XXIII
Broadcasting the House

Section 150. *Closed-Circuit Viewing of Floor Proceedings.* – The House shall establish a system for closed-circuit viewing of floor proceedings of the House in the offices of all Members and in such other places in the House as the Speaker considers appropriate. Such system may include other telecommunications functions subject to rules and regulations issued by the Speaker.

Section 151. *Public Broadcasting and Recording of Floor Proceedings.*

- (a) The House shall administer a system for complete and unedited audio and visual broadcasting, recording, and live streaming through the internet of the proceedings of the House. The system shall include the distribution of such broadcasts and recordings to news media, for the storage of audio and video recordings of the proceedings, and for the closed-captioning of the proceedings for hearing-impaired persons. Any such public broadcasting and system of recording of floor proceedings shall be subject to rules and regulations issued by the Speaker;
- (b) All television and radio broadcasting stations, networks, services, and systems including cable television systems that are accredited to the House radio and television correspondents' galleries, and all radio and television correspondents who are so accredited, shall be provided access to the live coverage of the House; and
- (c) Coverage made available under this section, including any recording may not be:
 - (1) used for any political purpose;
 - (2) used in any commercial advertisement; and
 - (3) broadcast with commercial sponsorship except as part of a *bona fide* news program or public affairs documentary program.

RULE XXIV
Response to Subpoenas

Section 152. *Compliance to Subpoenas.* – When a Member, officer, or employee of the House is properly served with a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order directing appearance as a witness relating to the official functions of the House or for the production or disclosure of any document relating to the official functions of the House, such Member, officer, or employee shall comply, consistently with the privileges and rights of the House, with the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order as hereinafter provided, unless otherwise determined under this Rule.

Section 153. *Notification of the House.* – Upon receipt of a properly served judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in *Section 152* hereof, a Member, officer, or employee of the House shall promptly notify the Speaker of its receipt in writing. Such notification shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker. During a period of recess or adjournment of longer than three (3) days, notification to the House is not required until the reconvening of the House, when the notification shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker.

Section 154. *Determination of Proper Exercise of Jurisdiction.* – Once notification has been laid before the House, the Member, officer, or employee of the House shall determine whether the issuance of the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in *Section 152* hereof is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. Such Member, officer, or employee shall notify the Speaker before seeking judicial determination of these matters.

Upon determination whether a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in *Section 152* hereof is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, officer, or employee of the House shall immediately notify the Speaker of the determination in writing.

Section 155. *Notification of the House of Proper Exercise of Jurisdiction.* – The Speaker shall inform the House of a determination whether a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in *Section 152* hereof is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House. In so informing the House, the Speaker shall generally describe the records or information sought. During a period of recess or adjournment of longer than three (3) days, such notification is not required until the reconvening of the House, when the notification shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker.

Section 156. *Submission of Documents.*

- (a) Except as specified in *paragraph (b)* hereunder or otherwise ordered by the House, upon notification to the House that a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in *Section 152* hereof is a proper exercise of jurisdiction by the court, is material and relevant, and is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, the Member, officer, or employee of the House shall comply with the judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order by supplying certified copies;
- (b) Under no circumstances may minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or evidence of witnesses in respect thereto, be disclosed or copied; and
- (c) During a period of recess or adjournment of longer than three (3) days, the Speaker may authorize compliance or take such other action as the Speaker considers appropriate under the circumstances. Upon the reconvening of the House, all matters that transpired under this clause shall promptly be laid before the House by the Speaker.

Section 157. *Transmittal of Rules to Court.* – A copy of this rule shall be transmitted by the Secretary General to the court when a judicial or administrative subpoena or judicial order described in

Section 152 hereof is issued and served on a Member, officer, or employee of the House.

Section 158. *Guarantee of Rights and Privileges.* – Nothing in this rule shall be construed to deprive, condition, or waive the constitutional or legal privileges or rights applicable or available at any time to a Member, officer, or employee of the House, or of the House itself, or the right of such Member, officer, or employee, or of the House itself, to assert such privileges or rights before any court.

RULE XXV

Session Hall, Conference Rooms, Lounges, Lobbies and Rooms

Section 159. *Use of the Session Hall, Conference Rooms, Lounges and Lobbies.* – The session hall shall be used only for plenary sessions. Conference rooms and all building lobbies shall be used only for committee meetings, caucuses and meetings of Members in the performance of legislative functions except when the House directs otherwise. The South Lounge shall be for exclusive use of Members. The North Lounge may be used by Members and their guests upon approval by the Speaker. The entire premises of the House of Representatives shall also be used only for the official functions of the House of Representatives.

The Philippine flag and the seal of the House of Representatives shall be displayed at all times in a conspicuous place in all offices and conference rooms inside the House premises.

Communications, documents, publications and other information materials written by or prepared under the direction of a Member, may be distributed in the session hall by such Member, personally or through facilities or employees of the House: *Provided*, That the author or source thereof is properly identified in such communications, documents, publications and other information materials.

Any Member who wishes to make audio-visual presentation in the course of the Member's speech, shall submit an electronic copy

of the audio-visual presentation to the Majority Leader before the intended date of the Member's speech.

Section 160. *Assignment of Seats in the Session Hall and the Gallery.* – Seats of House Members in the session hall shall be assigned in accordance with the instructions of the Speaker. Seats in the VIP gallery shall be reserved for cabinet officials, dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps. Seats in the first gallery shall be reserved for the members of the family of House Members, and those officials and staff of the House secretariat and congressional staff members and other persons authorized by the Secretary General. The second and third galleries shall be open to the public subject to the rules of procedure prescribed by the Secretary General.

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall not permit persons other than Members and authorized House personnel to enter or stay within the space designated in the session hall for Members and House personnel needed therein while the House is in session. Fifteen (15) minutes before the session, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall clear said space of all other persons and it shall be so kept until recess or adjournment. This section shall not be suspended, except with respect to resource person(s) or technical assistant(s) needed by the reporting committee or by the proponent of a motion under consideration.

Section 161. *Assignment of Rooms to House Members.* – Assignment of rooms to House Members shall be done, as far as practicable, by lot to be drawn upon submission to the Secretary General of complete documentary requirements for assumption of office. Re-elected Members may choose to retain the rooms previously assigned to them.

RULE XXVI

Precedents and Suppletory Provisions

Section 162. *Rulings as Precedents.* – Rulings on questions raised by Members shall form part of the parliamentary practice of the House.

Section 163. *Supplementary Provisions.* – The parliamentary practices of the Philippine Assembly, the House of Representatives, the Senate of the Philippines and the Batasang Pambansa shall be supplementary to these rules.

RULE XXVII

The Mace and the Official Seal

Section 164. *The Mace.* – The Mace shall be the symbol of authority of the House and shall be displayed at the Speaker’s rostrum when the House is in session. It shall serve as the warrant of the Sergeant-at-Arms in enforcing order in the House.

Section 165. *Official Seal.* – The House shall adopt its official seal. Use of the official seal shall be restricted to official documents, transactions and other related official legislative purposes unless otherwise permitted or directed by the House through the Speaker or his duly authorized representative.

RULE XXVIII

Amendments

Section 166. *Amendments to the Rules.* – Any provision of these Rules, except those that are also embodied in the Constitution, may be amended by a majority vote of all the Members of the House.

RULE XXIX

Effectivity

Section 167. *Effectivity.* – These rules shall take effect on the date of adoption.

Adopted, May 30, 2023

Index to the Rules of the House of Representatives

⅔ vote of the Members 56, 69, 78

3rd day after vacancy 5

4th Monday of July 4, 5

5-minute rule 52, 66, 67, 68

10-minute rule 67, 75

A

Absences

Committee

Chairpersons 41

Member 41, 44

Accounts, Committee on 15, 40, 44

Acting Deputy Speaker 11, 12

Acting Floor Leader 4, 17, 46

Acting Secretary General 12, 17

Acting Sergeant-at-Arms 12

Acting Speaker 11, 12

Action by the President 56

Adoption of resolution 52

Agrarian Reform, Committee on 24

Agriculture and Food, Committee on 25

Amendments 68

Bills 47, 49, 53, 54, 73

Title 68

Charters 28

Committee 52

Constitutional, Committee 26

Individual 52

Period of 52, 53

Resolutions 47, 49, 54

Rules 85

Answers

Form 74

Appeals

Ruling of the Chair 74

Appearances

Day of appearance 72-73

in Executive Session 73

upon initiative of Department Head of the

Executive Department 72

upon request of the House 72

Appointments, Commission on 22

Appointments, House of Representatives

Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on

22, 42

Appropriations, Committee on 25, 48

**Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources,
Committee on** 25

Archives, Legislative

Delivery of papers to 79

Article VI (sec. 25, ¶14) 5

Article VI (sec. 26, ¶12) 5

Article VII (sec. 10) 5

Assignments

Committee 9

Rooms 84

Seats 84

Gallery 84

House Members 84

VIP Gallery 84

Attendance 59, 62, 63

Absence of quorum 58

in Meetings 43

in Sessions 57

Record

Quarterly publication 20

Attire 65

Audit, Commission on 79

Authorship 41, 47, 51, 54

Automatic Call of the House 59

Age 69

B

Banks and Financial Intermediaries,

Committee on 25

Bases Conversion, Special Committee on 37

Basic Education and Culture, Committee on
26

Bicameral Conference Committees 57

Bills

Action by the President 56

Amendment of title 68

Amendments 47, 49, 53, 54, 73

Approval on Second Reading 52

Approved 52

Enrollment 55

Authorship 41, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51, 54

Cloture 51

Consideration 41, 50, 51

Consolidation 49

Electronic copy 46, 49

Enrollment 55

Favorably acted upon 49-50

First Reading 47

Motion to close debate 52

Motion to discharge

Consideration 51
Recommitment of measure 53

Referral

Change of 48
to Committee 48
Second Reading and debate 51
Status 49
Substitution 49
Third Reading 50, 52-53, 58, 60
Transmittal to the Senate 53
Unfavorably acted upon 50
Urgent 51
Vetoed 56

Bills and Index Service 55

Bills and Resolutions 46-47

Action by the President 56
Adoption 52
Amendments 52

Approval

Second Reading 52

Approved

Enrollment 55
Authorship 46, 47, 49, 50, 51
Consolidation 49
Electronic copy 46, 49
Favorably acted upon 49, 50
First Reading 47
from the Senate
Recommitment 53
Referral to the Committee 48
Change 48
Status of measures 49
Substitution 49
Third Reading 52-53
Transmittal to the Senate 53
Urgent 51

Books of Accounts 79

Broadcasting the House

Floor proceedings

Closed-circuit viewing 80
Public broadcasting and recording 80

Business for a certain date 60

Business for the day 60

Business for Thursday and Friday 58, 60

C

Cabinet members

Written declaration

Inability of President to discharge powers and duties 6

Calendar of Bills and Joint Resolutions

Calendar of Business

Business for a certain date 60
Business for the day 60
Business for Thursday and Friday 58, 60
Unassigned business 60-61
Unfinished business 59

Call to order 17, 58-59

Caucus 13, 83

Chairpersons, Committee 16, 49, 51, 54, 75, 76

Absence 41
Manner of addressing 63
Signature 45
Succession 41
Temporary incapacity 41

Civil Service and Professional Regulation, Committee on 26

Climate Change, Committee on 26

Closed-Circuit Viewing 80

Cloture 51

Co-Authorship

Code of Conduct 76-78

Vote requirement 78

Commission on Appointments 22

Commission on Audit 79

Commission on Elections 7

Committee of the Whole House 75-76

Constituting the Committee 75
Proceedings 75-76

Committee on Accounts 15, 40, 44

Committee orders 45

Committee reports 34, 45-46, 49, 50, 55, 57

Committee on Rules 46
Conference 54-55

Committees 22-40

Assignments 9
Chairpersons 13, 16, 34, 41, 42, 49, 51, 75, 76
Discharge 50, 51, 59
Duties and functions 22-23
Limitations
Meetings 44
Attendance 43
Attire 65
Conduct 65

- Notice 43
- Place 42-43
- Regular 44-45
- Special 44-45
- Time 42-43
- Members and officers 40-41
- Orders 45, 75
- Oversight 24
- Public hearings 43, 44, 45
- Reports and orders 45
- Rules 42
- Secretaries 50, 57
- Special committees** 13, 24, 37-40, 42, 44
 - Bases Conversion 37
 - Bicol Affairs and Economic Development 37
 - Creative Industries 38
 - East ASEAN Growth Area 38
 - Food Security 38
 - Globalization and WTO 38
 - Land Use 38
 - Nuclear Energy 39
 - Peace, Reconciliation and Unity 39
 - Persons with Disabilities 39
 - Reforestation 39
 - Southern Tagalog Development 39
 - Strategic Intelligence 39-40
 - West Philippine Sea 40
- Standing committees** 13, 24-37, 40, 42
 - Accounts 15, 40, 44
 - Agrarian Reform 24
 - Agriculture and Food 25
 - Appropriations 25, 48
 - Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources 25
 - Banks and Financial Intermediaries 25
 - Basic Education and Culture 25-26
 - Civil Service and Professional Regulation 26
 - Climate Change 26
 - Constitutional Amendments 26
 - Cooperatives Development 26
 - Dangerous Drugs 26-27
 - Disaster Resilience 27
 - Ecology 27
 - Economic Affairs 27
 - Energy 27
 - Ethics and Privileges 27
 - Flagship Program and Projects 27-28
 - Foreign Affairs 28
 - Games and Amusements 28
 - Good Government and Public Accountability 28
 - Government Enterprises and Privatization 28
 - Government Reorganization 28
 - Health 29
 - Higher and Technical Education 29
 - Housing and Urban Development 29
 - Human Rights 29
 - Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples 29
 - Information and Communications Technology 29
 - Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy 30
 - Justice 30
 - Labor and Employment 30-31
 - Legislative Franchises 31
 - Local Government 31
 - Metro Manila Development 31
 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development 31
 - Mindanao Affairs 31
 - Muslim Affairs 31
 - National Defense and Security 31-32
 - Natural Resources 32
 - North Luzon Growth Quadrangle 32
 - Overseas Workers Affairs 32
 - People's Participation 32
 - Population and Family Relations 32
 - Poverty Alleviation 32-33
 - Public Accounts 33
 - Public Information 33
 - Public Order and Safety 33
 - Public Works and Highways 33
 - Revision of Laws 33
 - Rules 34
 - Rural Development 34
 - Science and Technology 34
 - Senior Citizens 34
 - Social Services 34-35
 - Suffrage and Electoral Reforms 35
 - Sustainable Development Goals 35

Tourism 35
Trade and Industry 35
Transportation 35-36
Veterans Affairs and Welfare 36
Visayas Development 36
Ways and Means 36
Welfare of Children 36
Women and Gender Equality 36
Youth and Sports Development 37
Sub-committees 37, 43, 45
Succession 41
Technical working groups 45
Vacancy 41
Vice Chairpersons 13, 40
Committee Secretaries 50, 57
Duties 79
Communications 18, 57, 71, 83
Concurrent resolutions
Transmittal to the Senate 53
Conduct
Committee meetings 65
Sessions 65
Conference Committees
Bicameral 57
Reports 54-55
Conference rooms 42, 65, 83
Conferences 42
Confidential documents 61
Conflicting provisions 49, 54
Congressional Record 79
Consolidation 49
Constituencies 17, 36, 43
Constitution
Article VI (sec. 25, ¶4) 5
Article VI (sec. 26, ¶2) 5
Article VII (sec. 10) 5
Proposals to amend 78-79
Adoption of resolution 52
Constitutional Convention 78-79
Form 78
Procedure for adoption 78
Constitutional amendments 26
Constitutional Amendments, Committee on
26
Constitutional Convention 78-79
Contracts 15, 19
Convening 4-5
House, of the
4th Monday of July 4, 5

During a recess 60-61
Exceptional cases
First meeting
Reconvening 82
Cooperatives Development, Committee on
26

D

Daily sessions

Commencement 57

Dangerous Drugs, Committee on 26-27

Debates 10, 14, 45, 50, 51, 52, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 76

Sponsor opens and closes 64

Time limit 63-64

Decorum

Addressing the Chair 63

Attire 65

Conduct 65

Recognition of Member 63

Smoking prohibited 65

Department heads 72, 73, 74

Deputy Majority Leader 34, 40, 44

Deputy Minority Leader 34, 40, 44

Deputy Secretaries General 34, 40, 44

Deputy Speakers 5, 10

Absence 12

Death 12

Election 10, 11

Permanent incapacity 12

Powers and duties 16-17

Resignation 11

Temporary incapacity 12

Term of Office 11

Disaster Resilience, Committee on 27

Discharge of Committees 50

Dissenting opinions 46

Dissenting vote 45

Documents

Confidential 61

Submission 82

Drug testing 27

E

East ASEAN Growth Area, Special Committee on 38

Ecology, Committee on 27

Economic Affairs, Committee on 27

Effectivity 85

Elections 7, 35

Deputy Speakers 10-11

Secretary General 10-11

Sergeant-at-Arms 10-11

Speaker 10-11

Emergency session 62

Energy, Committee on 27

Enrollment of bills and joint resolutions 55

Ethics and Privileges, Committee on 27

Executive sessions 44

Journal 18

F

First Reading 47, 57, 71

Five-minute rule 52, 66, 67

Flags

Philippines 83

Flagship Programs and Projects, Committee on 27-28

Floor Leader, Acting 4, 17, 46

Designation 4

Floor Proceedings

Closed-circuit viewing 80

Public broadcasting and recording 80

Food Security, Special Committee on 38

Foreign Affairs, Committee on 28

G

Gallery

Assignment of seats 84

First 84

VIP 84

Games and Amusements, Committee on 28

General Appropriations Act 15

Globalization and WTO, Special Committee on 38

Good Government and Public Accountability, Committee on 28

Government Enterprises and Privatization, Committee on 28

Government Reorganization, Committee on 28

Guests 61, 83

H

Health, Committee on 29

Hearings 24, 43, 44, 47

Public 45

Higher and Technical Education, Committee on 29

Hours

Privilege 50, 71, 72

Question 72-73

House Members

Affirmation 7-8

Assignments

Rooms 84

Seats 84

Assumption of office 7, 84

Attendance in meetings 43

Attendance in sessions 57

Attendance record

Quarterly publication 20

Attire 65

Conduct 65

Decorum 64

Drug testing 15

Duties 8

Immunities 10

Membership

Majority 9-10

Minority 9-10

Oath of office 7-8

Official mission 57

Recognition 63

Salaries and benefits 10

Term of office

Death 7

Lawfully barred 7

Permanently incapacitated 7

Resignation 7

Removal from office 7

House of Representatives

Annual Budget 15

Drug testing 15

House of the People 3

Members and officers 13

Personnel

Appointments 14, 19

Erring employees 19

Recruitment 15, 19

Suspension 14

Vacant positions 15

Seal 19, 77, 83, 85
House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments 22
Members 22
Election 22
Representation of the House 22
Rules and regulations 22
Vacancy 22
Housing and Urban Development, Committee on 29
Human Rights, Committee on 29

I

Immunities 10
Inaugural session 4, 11, 17
Independent Member 10
Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples, Committee on 29
Information and Communications Technology, Committee on 29-30
Information management system 13
Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy, Committee on 30
Interpellations 64, 73-75

J

Joint meetings 44
Joint referrals 45
Joint resolutions
Action by the President 56
Approval on Second Reading 52
Approved
Enrollment 55
Enrollment 55
Recommitment of measure 53
Second Reading and debate 51
Third Reading 52, 58, 60, 70
Transmittal to the Senate 53
Vetoed
Procedure 56
Journal 5, 18, 50, 52, 54-57, 59, 61, 62, 68, 70, 73
Approval 57
July (4th Monday) 4
June 30 7
Jurisdiction 24, 42, 46, 47
Proper exercise 81

Determination 81
Notification of the House 81
Justice, Committee on 30

K

L

Labor and Employment, Committee on 30-31
Land Use, Special Committee on 38
Legislative actions 8
Legislative agenda 13
Legislative calendar 5
Legislative districts 7, 58
Legislative Franchises, Committee on 31
Legislative Library 19
Legislative measures 8, 13, 17, 42
Legislative performance 3, 4
Legislative support services 4, 15
Live coverage 80
Live streaming 80
Lobbies 14, 83
Local Government, Committee on 31
Lounges 83

M

Mace 21, 85
Majority 9
Transfer of membership 9
Majority Leader 9, 40
Martial Law 6, 62
Measures 13, 47
from the Senate 53
Priority 13
Recommitment 53
Status 49
Substitute 49
Meetings
Confidentiality 45
Executive 45
Regular 44
Special 44
Members, House
Affirmation 7-8
Assignments
Rooms 84

Seats 84
Assumption of office 84
Attendance in meetings 43
Attendance in sessions 57
Attendance record
 Quarterly publication 20
Attire 65
Conduct 62, 65, 76-78
Decorum 63
Drug testing 15
Duties 8
Expulsion 78
Immunities 10
Membership
 Forfeiture 9, 44
 Independent 10
 Majority 9-10
 Minority 9-10
 Transfer 9
Oath of office 7-8
Official mission 57
Recognition 63
Receipt of subpoena 81
Salaries and benefits 10
Statement of Assets and Liabilities 15
Suspension 78
Term of office
 Death 7
 Lawfully barred 7
 Permanently incapacitated 7
 Removal from office 7
 Resignation 7
 Transfer of membership 9
Membership 7-10
 Affirmation of Members 7-8
 Composition 7
 Duties 8
 Forfeiture 9, 44, 77
 Immunities 10
 Majority 9-10
 Minority 9-10
 Oath 7-8
 Salaries and benefits 10
 Term 7
 Transfer 9
Memorials 14, 18, 45-46, 56, 71
Messages
 from the President 56
 from the Senate 56

Metro Manila Development, Committee on 31
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development, Committee on 31
Mindanao Affairs, Committee on 31
Minority 9-10
 Transfer of membership 9
Minority Leader 9, 40
Mondays 4, 5, 50, 57, 71
Motions
 Adjourn 66
 Amend 66
 Amendments 67
 Appeal from the ruling of the Chair 68
 Declare a recess 66
 Interruption 69
 Lay on the Table 66
 One motion for one subject matter 66
 Point of Order 66
 Postpone Indefinitely 66
 Postpone to a Day Certain 66
 Precedence 65-66
 Prohibition of riders 66
 Questions of privilege 66
 Raise a Point of Order 66
 Raise a Question of Privilege 66
 Reading 65
 Reconsideration 46, 53, 56, 66, 67
 Recording 68
 Refer 66
 Re-Refer 66
 Strike and insert 68
 Suspend the Rules 69
 Vote on paper objected to 68
 Withdrawal 65
Motu proprio 24, 37, 47, 51, 64
Muslim Affairs, Committee on 31

N

National Defense and Security, Committee on 31-32
Natural Resources, Committee on 32
Nay 69
News media 80
Nominal voting 14, 52, 61, 70
 Declaration of Vacancy for the position of Speaker 12
 Question 69

Recording of results 70
Second call 70
North Luzon Growth Quadrangle, Committee on 32
Notices 42
Notification of the House 81
Nuclear Energy, Special Committee on 39

O

Oath of Office 7-8
Oath-taking
 Speaker 5
Office of the Secretary General 19, 55
Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms
 Senior Officer as Acting Sergeant-at-Arms 12
Officers 10-12
 Absence or temporary incapacity 12
 Election 10
 Term of office 11
 Vacancy 11-12
Official mission 57
Official seal 19, 78, 83, 85
Order of Business 17-18, 46, 57, 72
 Inaugural session
 Concurrent Resolutions for the President's SONA
 Joint Committee 18
 Joint Session 18
 Resolutions to inform
 President 17
 Senate of the Philippines 17-18
Overseas Workers Affairs, Committee on 32

P

Papers
 Delivery to Legislative Archives 79
Party-lists 4, 7
 Representation 7
Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, Special Committee on 39
People's initiative 47
People's Participation, Committee on 32
Performance evaluation 14
Persons with Disabilities, Special Committee on 39

Petitions 46, 56, 57
Philippine Flag 83
Plenary sessions 8, 62, 83
Point of Order 66, 71
Population and Family Relations, Committee on 32
Poverty Alleviation, Committee on 32-33
Preamble 3
Precedence of Motions 65-66
Precedents 84
President

Inaugural session 17
 Vacancy in office
 Special election 5
 Written declaration
 Inability to discharge powers and duties 5-6

Presiding Officer 14, 16
 Temporary

Privilege hour 71-72
 Day for 71
 Suspension 71

Privilege speech 72

Procedures
 Resolutions 56
 Vetoed bills and joint resolutions 55-56

Proceedings

Committee
 Broadcast coverage 13-14

Floor
 Closed-Circuit Viewing 80
 Public broadcasting 80
 Recording 80

Plenary
 Broadcast coverage 13-14
 Translation 13-14

Prohibition of riders 66

Proposals

Amend the Constitution
 Constitutional convention 78-79
 Form of proposals and procedure of adoption 78

Public

Books 79
 Broadcasting 14, 80
 Audio 80
 Closed-captioning for the hearing-impaired 80
 Closed-Circuit Viewing 80

Live streaming 80
Video 80
Hearings 42-43
Information Program 13
Records 80
Sessions 61
Public Accounts, Committee on 33
Public Information, Committee on 33
Public Order and Safety, Committee on 33
Public Works and Highways, Committee on 33

Q

Question Hour 72-75

Answers

Form 74
Standards 73

Appearance

Day of appearance 72-73
in Executive Session 73
upon initiative of Department Head of the Executive Department 72
upon request of the House 72
Interpellations and comments of proponents of original questions 74

Questions

Classification and disposition 74
Form 74
Local significance 74
Not conforming with standards 74
Original 74
Standards 74
Unanswered 74

Service Unit 75

Questions 73

Classification and disposition 74
Form 74
Local significance 74
Not conforming with standards 74
Original 74
Standards 74
Unanswered 74
Written 73

Questions of Privilege 66

Quorum 5, 11, 44-45, 50, 58, 68-70, 75

Absence of 58
Meetings (regular/special) 44-45

Proceedings of the Committee of the Whole 75-76

R

Recess 22, 42, 62, 66, 67, 68, 76, 81, 82, 84

Convening of the House 62
Motion to declare 66

Recognition of Member 63

Recommitment of measure 53

Reconsideration 46, 53, 56, 66, 67

Record of the House 19

Referrals

Change of 48
Committee 45

Reforestation, Special Committee on 39

Regular session 5, 13, 16, 19-20, 44, 50, 66, 71

Closing 19
Commencement 19
Record of the House 19

Representation of the House 22

Representatives

Affirmation 7-8

Assignments

Rooms 84
Seats 84

Assumption of office 7, 84

Attendance in meetings 43

Attendance in sessions 57

Attendance record

Quarterly publication 20

Attire 65

Conduct 27, 65-66, 76-78

Decorum 63, 64

Drug testing 15

Duties 8-9

Immunities 10

Membership

Forfeiture 9

Independent 9-10

Majority 9-10

Minority 9-10

Transfer 9

Oath of office 7-8

Official mission 57

Receipt of subpoena 81

Recognition 63

Salaries and benefits 10

<i>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</i>	15
<i>Suspension</i>	14-15
Term of office	
<i>Death</i>	7
<i>Lawfully barred</i>	7
<i>Permanently incapacitated</i>	7
<i>Removal from office</i>	7
<i>Resignation</i>	7
<i>Transfer of membership</i>	9
Resolutions	46-47
<i>Acted upon</i>	49-50
<i>Adoption</i>	52, 78
<i>Amendments</i>	52, 68
<i>Amendment of title</i>	68
<i>Authorship</i>	41, 46, 47, 49
<i>Cloture</i>	51
<i>Concurrent</i>	18, 53
<i>Consideration</i>	41, 46, 47, 49
<i>Consolidation</i>	49
<i>Electronic copy</i>	46, 49
<i>Favorably acted upon</i>	49-50
<i>First Reading</i>	47, 57, 71
<i>Joint</i>	42, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 68, 70, 79
<i>Motion to close debate</i>	52
Motion to discharge	
<i>Consideration</i>	50-51
<i>Procedure</i>	56
Referrals	
<i>Change of</i>	48
<i>Committee</i>	48
<i>Status</i>	49
<i>Substitution</i>	49, 52, 68
<i>Third Reading</i>	52-53, 58, 60, 70
<i>Unfavorably acted upon</i>	50
<i>Urgent</i>	51
Revision of Laws, Committee on	33
Roll call	4, 57, 58, 59, 65
Rooms	
<i>Assignment</i>	84
Rules of the House of Representatives	
<i>Adoption</i>	5
<i>Amendments</i>	85
<i>Bills, Resolutions, Messages, Memorials and Petitions</i>	46-56
<i>Broadcasting the House</i>	80
<i>Code of Conduct</i>	76-78
<i>Committee of the Whole House</i>	75-76
<i>Committees</i>	22-46

<i>Conduct of Plenary Sessions through Electronic Platforms</i>	62-63
<i>Convening and Organizing the House</i>	4-6
<i>Declaration of Principles and Policies</i>	3-4
<i>Decorum and Debate</i>	63-65
<i>Deputy Speakers</i>	16-17
<i>Effectivity</i>	85
<i>House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the Commission on Appointments</i>	22
<i>Mace and Official Seal</i>	85
<i>Membership</i>	7-10
<i>Motions and their Precedence</i>	65-68
<i>Officers</i>	10-12
<i>Papers, Books and Records</i>	79
<i>Preamble</i>	3
<i>Precedents and Suppletory Provisions</i>	84-85
<i>Privilege Hour</i>	71-72
<i>Proposals to Amend the Constitution</i>	78-79
<i>Question Hour</i>	72-75
<i>Response to Subpoenas</i>	81-83
<i>Secretary General</i>	17-20
<i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i>	20-21
<i>Session</i>	57-62
<i>Session Hall, Conference Rooms, Lounges, Lobbies and Rooms</i>	83-84
<i>Speaker</i>	12-16
<i>Suspension of the Rules</i>	69
<i>Voting</i>	69-70
Rules, Committee on	15, 24, 34, 37, 40, 42, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 56, 60, 66, 69, 71, 72, 75
<i>Authority to move</i>	69
<i>Reports</i>	46
<i>Service Unit</i>	75
Rulings as precedents	84
Rural Development, Committee on	34

S

Science and Technology, Committee on	34
Seal, Official	19, 78, 83, 85
Seats	
<i>Assigned to House Members</i>	84
<i>VIP Gallery</i>	84
Second Reading	
<i>Approval of bill or joint resolution</i>	52

Secretary General 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17-20, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 64, 65, 70, 74, 75, 79, 82, 84

Acting 12

as Presiding Officer 4

Death 11

Election 10

Incumbent 11

Permanently incapacitated 7

Powers and duties 17-20

Reports 20

Resignation 11

Suspension 15

Senate President 6

Senate of the Philippines 14, 17, 18, 54, 56, 64, 85

Approved bills and resolution

Transmittal to 53

Linkages 14

Measures from the 53

Supplementary provisions 84

Senior Citizens, Committee on 34

Sergeant-at-Arms 5, 12, 16, 17, 18, 58, 61, 84, 85

Death 11

Election 10

Incumbent 11

Permanently incapacitated 11

Powers and duties 20-21

Reports 21

Resignation 11

Suspension 15

Service Unit 75

Session Hall 83-84

Assignment of seats 84

Use 83

Sessions 57-62

Adjournment 62

Approval of journal 59

Attendance 57

Attire 65

Automatic call of the House 59

Calendar of Business 59-61

Bills and joint resolutions on third reading 60

Business for a certain date 60

Business for the day 60

Business for Thursday and Friday 60

Unassigned business 60-61

Unfinished business 59

Call to order 58

Cancellation 62

Conduct 62-63

Conduct of plenary sessions through electronic platforms

Attendance 63

Nominal voting 63

Confidential documents 61

Convening during recess 62

Daily sessions

Commencement 57

Emergency 62

Executive 61

Inaugural 4, 11, 17

Motion to adjourn vacates call 59

Opening 61

Open to the public 61

Order of Business 56

Quorum 58

Absence of 58

Regular 5, 13, 16, 19, 20, 44, 50, 59, 66

Roll call 58, 59, 71

Special 5

Suspension 62

Voting 61

Smoking prohibition 65

Social Services, Committee on 34-35

Southern Tagalog Development, Special Committee on 39

Speaker of the House 5-6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 51, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 65, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85

Absence 12

Death 11, 16

Election 10-12

Permanently incapacitated 11, 16

Powers and duties 12-16

Representation in international parliamentary gatherings and organizations 16

Resignation 11

Tie vote 70

Special Committees 13, 24, 37-40, 42

Bases Conversion 37

Bicol Affairs and Economic Development 37

<i>Creative Industries</i>	38	<i>Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples</i>	29
<i>East ASEAN Growth Area</i>	38	<i>Information and Communications Technology</i>	29
<i>Food Security</i>	38	<i>Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy</i>	30
<i>Globalization and WTO</i>	38	<i>Justice</i>	30
<i>Land Use</i>	38	<i>Labor and Employment</i>	30-31
<i>Nuclear Energy</i>	39	<i>Legislative Franchises</i>	31
<i>Peace, Reconciliation and Unity</i>	39	<i>Local Government</i>	31
<i>Persons with Disabilities</i>	39	<i>Metro Manila Development</i>	31
<i>Reforestation</i>	39	<i>Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development</i>	31
<i>Southern Tagalog Development</i>	39	<i>Mindanao Affairs</i>	31
<i>Strategic Intelligence</i>	39-40	<i>Muslim Affairs</i>	31
<i>West Philippine Sea</i>	40	<i>National Defense and Security</i>	31-32
Special election		<i>Natural Resources</i>	32
<i>Bill</i>	5	<i>North Luzon Growth Quadrangle</i>	32
<i>President</i>	6	<i>Overseas Workers Affairs</i>	32
<i>Vice-President</i>	6	<i>People's Participation</i>	32
Special sessions	5, 7, 59	<i>Population and Family Relations</i>	32
Sponsor	64	<i>Poverty Alleviation</i>	32-33
Standing Committees	23-36	<i>Public Accounts</i>	32-33
<i>Accounts</i>	15, 40, 44	<i>Public Information</i>	33
<i>Agrarian Reform</i>	24	<i>Public Order and Safety</i>	33
<i>Agriculture and Food</i>	25	<i>Public Works and Highways</i>	33
<i>Appropriations</i>	25, 48	<i>Revision of Laws</i>	33
<i>Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources</i>	25	<i>Rules</i>	34
<i>Banks and Financial Intermediaries</i>	25	<i>Rural Development</i>	34
<i>Basic Education and Culture</i>	25-26	<i>Science and Technology</i>	34
<i>Civil Service and Professional Regulation</i>	26	<i>Senior Citizens</i>	34
<i>Climate Change</i>	26	<i>Social Services</i>	34-35
<i>Constitutional Amendments</i>	26	<i>Suffrage and Electoral Reforms</i>	35
<i>Cooperatives Development</i>	26	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>	35
<i>Dangerous Drugs</i>	26-27	<i>Tourism</i>	35
<i>Disaster Resilience</i>	27	<i>Trade and Industry</i>	35
<i>Ecology</i>	27	<i>Transportation</i>	35-36
<i>Economic Affairs</i>	27	<i>Veterans Affairs and Welfare</i>	36
<i>Energy</i>	27	<i>Visayas Development</i>	36
<i>Ethics and Privileges</i>	27	<i>Ways and Means</i>	36
<i>Flagship Program and Projects</i>	27-28	<i>Welfare of Children</i>	36
<i>Foreign Affairs</i>	28	<i>Women and Gender Equality</i>	36
<i>Games and Amusements</i>	28	<i>Youth and Sports Development</i>	37
<i>Good Government and Public Accountability</i>	28	Statement of Assets and Liabilities	15
<i>Government Enterprises and Privatization</i>	28	Strategic Intelligence, Special Committee on	34-40
<i>Government Reorganization</i>	28	Sub judice	73
<i>Health</i>	29	Subject matter	47, 48, 49, 51, 66, 67, 72, 74
<i>Higher and Technical Education</i>	29	Subpoenas	19
<i>Housing and Urban Development</i>	29		
<i>Human Rights</i>	29		

Compliance 81
Guarantee of rights and privileges 83
Notification of the House 81
Proper exercise of jurisdiction
 Notification of the House 82
 Response to 81
 Submission of documents 82
 Transmittal of Rules to court 82-83
Substitute measures 49
Substitution 49
Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, Committee on 35
Suppletory provisions 84-85
Suspension of the Rules
 Authority to move 69
 Debate 69
 Effect 69
 Interruption of motion 69
 Vote requirement 69
Sustainable Development Goals, Committee on 35

T

Technical working groups 45
Temporary incapacity 12, 16, 41
Ten-minute rule 67, 75
Term of office 11
 Death 7
 Lawfully barred 7
 Permanently incapacitated 7, 11
 Removal from office 7, 11
 Resignation 7, 11
Third Reading 5, 49, 50, 52-53, 56, 58, 59, 60, 69, 70
Tie vote 68, 70
Time limit 63-64
Title
 Amendment of 68
Tourism, Committee on 35
Trade and Industry, Committee on 35
Transmittal of Rules to Court 82-83
Transmittal to the Senate 53
Transportation, Committee on 35-36

U

Unassigned business 58
Unfinished business 57

V

Vacancy 5, 7, 10, 22, 41
 Death 11
 Permanently incapacitated 11
 Resignation 11
Veterans Affairs and Welfare, Committee on 36
Veto 55, 56
Vetoed bills and joint resolutions 56
 Procedure for Resolutions 56
Vice Chairperson 13, 34, 40, 41
 Absence 41
 Succession 41
 Temporary incapacity 41
Vice-President 5
 As Acting President 6
 Vacancy in office
 Special election 7
Virtual conference 43, 44, 63
Visayas Development, Committee on 36
Visitors 21, 61
Vote on paper objected to 68
Vote requirement
 Erring Members 78
Voting 61
 Explanation of vote 70
 Majority 4, 5, 6
 Declaration of vacancy of any position 11
 Manner 69-70
 No interruption during 70
 Nominal 12, 14, 52, 56, 60, 63
 Question 70
 Recording of results 70
 Second call 70
 Roll Call 4
 Suspension of the Rules 69
 Tie vote 70
 Without explanation 5
Voting records 20

W

Warrants 14, 19
Ways and Means, Committee on 36, 48
Website (House) 19, 43, 45, 49, 56, 58, 61
Wednesdays 72

Welfare of Children, Committee on 36
West Philippine Sea, Special Committee on
40
Women and Gender Equality, Committee on
36
Writ of *habeas corpus* 6, 62
Writs 14, 19

Y

Youth and Sports Development, Committee
on 37

Part Two

RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

RULES OF PROCEDURE

GOVERNING INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

19th Congress



Section 1. *Power to Conduct Inquiries.* – Pursuant to *Section 21, Article VI* of the *Constitution*, the House of Representatives or any of its committees, may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with these rules.

The filing or pendency of a case before any court, tribunal or quasi-judicial or administrative body shall not stop or abate any inquiry conducted to carry out a legislative purpose.

Section 2. *Modes of Initiation.* – Inquiries may be initiated through the following modes:

- a. *motu proprio* action of a committee on any matter within its jurisdiction upon a majority vote of all its Members: *Provided*, That the committee shall first seek authority from the Committee on Rules to proceed with their *motu proprio* inquiry; or
- b. upon order of the House of Representatives through:
 - b1. the referral to the appropriate committee of a privilege speech containing or conveying a request or demand for the conduct of an inquiry, upon motion of the Majority Leader or the Deputy Majority Leaders; or
 - b2. the referral of a resolution to the appropriate committee: *Provided*, That all resolutions directing any committee to conduct an inquiry shall be initially referred to the Committee on Rules for the determination of the necessity and propriety of the conduct of such inquiry; or

- b3. the referral of a petition filed or information given by any person not a member of the House requesting such inquiry to the appropriate committee: *Provided*, That such petition or information shall be submitted to the Speaker under oath stating the facts upon which it is based, and accompanied by supporting documents, and thereafter included in the order of business for referral to the Committee on Rules which shall determine the necessity and propriety of the conduct of such inquiry.

Section 3. *Change of Referral.* – The referral of the privilege speech, resolution, petition or information may be changed on motion of the Majority Leader upon receipt and approval by the Committee on Rules of a written request from the chairperson of the committee to which said privilege speech, resolution, petition or information was originally referred. The Committee on Rules shall decide on the said request within a reasonable time from receipt thereof.

Section 4. *Conduct of Inquiry.* – The committee(s) authorized and directed to conduct an inquiry may:

- a. upon a majority vote of all its Members, invite any other interested committee(s) or Members thereof to attend its hearings: *Provided*, That the committee(s) or Members thereof so invited shall not participate in the preparation and approval of the report on the investigation; and
- b. constitute sub-committees composed of at least one-fifth (1/5) of the total number of committee Members for the purpose of performing any and all acts which the committee as a whole is authorized to perform in the conduct of an inquiry except to punish for contempt.

The findings and recommendations of the sub-committees shall be submitted for approval and other appropriate action(s) thereon by the mother committee: *Provided*, That findings and recommendations including summary statements thereon or publications related thereto shall not be released by any Member of

the sub-committee and the secretariat staff prior to the inclusion of the final committee report in the Calendar of Business as provided in *Section 17* hereof.

Section 5. *Joint Inquiry or Investigation.* – When a privilege speech, resolution, petition or information is referred to two or more committees, a joint inquiry by the said committees shall be conducted.

Section 6. *Quorum.* - One-fifth (1/5) of all the Members of a committee or a majority of all the Members of a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of determining the existence of a quorum, the Speaker, the Deputy Speakers, the Majority Leader, the Deputy Majority Leaders, the Minority Leader & the Deputy Minority Leaders or the Members deputized by them shall be added to the total number of committee or sub-committee members, as the case may be, if they are present in a meeting. In cases of joint referrals, a quorum must be present in each of the committees concerned.

Section 7. *Executive Sessions.* - If the committee or sub-committee deems that the subject matter of the discussion in a public hearing may endanger national security or may be offensive to decency or public morals, it shall conduct the examination in an executive session.

Attendance in executive sessions shall be limited to Members of the committee, the committee secretariat staff and such other persons whose presence are required or allowed by the Chairperson.

Testimony taken or evidence presented in an executive session, or any summary or excerpt thereof or documents related thereto, in whole or in part, shall not be made public, unless authorized by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum.

Section 8. *Attendance of Witnesses.* – The committee shall have the power to issue *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* to witnesses in any part of the country, signed by the Chairperson or acting Chairperson and the Speaker or acting Speaker. However, if the committee is unable to secure the signature of the Speaker

or acting Speaker on a *subpoena ad testificandum* and/or *subpoena duces tecum*, it may request the Committee on Rules to act on the matter. Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules through a majority vote of all its Members after determining that the attendance of a witness is indispensable to the effective conduct of the inquiry, the Speaker shall issue a *subpoena ad testificandum* and/or a *subpoena duces tecum* to compel the attendance of a witness.

Within Metro Manila, *subpoena ad testificandum* and *subpoena duces tecum* shall be served by the Sergeant-at-Arms or his duly authorized deputies. Outside Metro Manila, service of these processes may be made by the appropriate police officer or authority of the town or city upon request of the Secretary General.

Subpoena shall be served to a witness at least three (3) days before a scheduled hearing in order to give the witness every opportunity to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel, should the witness desire. The *subpoena* shall be accompanied by a notice stating that should a witness wish to confer with the secretary of the committee prior to the date of the hearing, the witness shall convey such desire to the committee by mail, telephone or any other electronic communication device.

Section 9. Rights and Duties of Witnesses. – The rights of witnesses including their right against self-incrimination shall be respected.

Witnesses who are not government officials summoned by the committee shall be entitled, upon their request and subject to the approval of the Speaker, to reasonable transportation expenses and such other amounts as may be deemed necessary for their stay in Metro Manila.

Witnesses shall testify under oath to be administered by the Chairperson or by any other person authorized by law.

A witness shall be limited to giving information relevant and germane to the subject matter under investigation. The committee shall rule upon the admissibility of any testimony or information presented by a witness. Privileged communications shall be respected.

Any witness desiring to deliver or present a prepared or written statement before the committee shall file a copy of such statement, under oath, with the secretary of the committee within forty-eight (48) hours before the hearing at which the statement is to be delivered or presented.

Such statements or portions thereof that are relevant and germane to the subject of the investigation may, at the conclusion of the testimony of the witness, and upon approval by a majority vote of the Members of the committee, a quorum being present, be inserted into the official transcript of the proceedings.

A witness shall be allowed to request for and be granted postponement of the appearance before the committee or sub-committee on grounds that render such witness physically unable to attend the inquiry or investigation: *Provided*, That the fact of physical inability to attend the inquiry or investigation is supported by appropriate medical or other certification as may be required by the committee or sub-committee, and: *Provided further*, That no witness shall be granted more than two (2) postponements of appearance before the committee without justifiable cause.

Section 10. *Rights and Duties of Persons Affected by a Hearing.*

– Where applicable, any person named in a public hearing or in the released record of testimonies given in executive sessions, who has not been previously so named shall, within a reasonable time thereafter, be notified of such fact by registered letter, return receipt requested, to the address of such person last known to the committee. The notice shall include:

- a. a statement that the person has been so named;
- b. date and place of hearing where the person was named;
- c. name of the person who testified; and
- d. information that a copy of the *Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation* is available for the perusal of such person in the house.

Any person so notified who believes that one's character or reputation was adversely affected may, within seven (7) days after receipt of said notice:

- a. communicate with the secretary of the committee; and/or
- b. request to appear in person before the committee in public session and give testimony, at the expense of the concerned person.

Any person testifying under the foregoing provisions shall be accorded the same privileges as any other witness appearing before the committee, and may be questioned concerning any matter relevant and germane to the subject of the investigation.

Section 11. *Contempt.* – The committee may punish any person for contempt, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present, there being a quorum. The following shall be grounds for citing any person in contempt:

- a. refusal without legal excuse to obey summons;
- b. refusal to be sworn or placed under affirmation;
- c. refusal to answer any relevant inquiry;
- d. refusal to produce any books, papers, documents or records that are relevant to the inquiry and are in the possession of the concerned person;
- e. acting in a disrespectful manner towards any Member of the committee or any misbehavior in the presence of the committee; or
- f. undue interference in the conduct of proceedings.

Contempt of the committee shall be deemed contempt of the House. The person cited in this section may, upon order of the committee, be detained in such place as the Chairperson or acting Chairperson may designate.

Section 12. *Penalty.* – By a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Members present, there being a quorum, those cited under *Section 11, paragraphs (e) and (f)* shall be detained for a period not exceeding ten (10) days in a place designated by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson under the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 13. *Appearance of Counsel.* – The person at whose instance the inquiry was initiated may be represented by counsel.

A witness shall be informed by the committee or sub-committee of the right to be represented by counsel. When informed by a witness of the desire to be represented by counsel or when such witness requests to be represented by counsel, the committee or sub-committee may provide a *counsel de officio* or allow such witness to choose own counsel and be assisted by the same.

The participation of counsel for the witness during the hearing and while the witness is testifying shall be limited to advising on the legal rights of said witness.

Counsel for a witness shall conduct oneself in a professional manner and shall observe proper decorum. Otherwise, upon a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum, such counsel shall be subject to contempt or to such other disciplinary action that may include censure and removal from the room where the hearing is being conducted.

A counsel ordered removed from the room where the hearing is being conducted may, upon such counsel's request, be allowed to remain in the room as an observer. The counsel shall sit in the place reserved for the general public and shall have no participation in the proceedings.

In cases where a counsel for a witness is ordered removed from the room, the witness shall be given reasonable time as may be determined by the committee to secure the services of another counsel. Should the witness deliberately or capriciously fail or refuse to obtain the services of another counsel, a *counsel de officio* may be provided to the witness by the committee within a reasonable time. Thereafter, the hearing shall continue and the testimony of such witness shall be heard.

Section 14. Safekeeping and Release of Record of Testimonies of Witnesses. – The testimony of witnesses shall be recorded *verbatim*. Records of testimonies given in executive sessions shall be placed in the custody of the Secretary General who shall ensure their preservation and confidentiality.

A witness or the counsel of such witness may obtain transcripts of any public testimony of witnesses from the secretary of the committee at the expense of the witness and upon written request duly approved by the committee chairperson.

No committee report, an excerpt or summary statement of the contents thereof, or any publication related thereto, shall be released by any Member of the committee and its secretariat staff prior to the inclusion of the report in the Calendar of Business.

Section 15. *Termination of Inquiry.* – The committee shall terminate an inquiry, and submit a report thereon within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of commencement unless the committee, by a majority vote of members present, there being a quorum, deems it necessary to extend such inquiry. The inquiry commences on the date of referral of the privilege speech, resolution or petition or information to the concerned committee.

Section 16. *Report of Committee.* - The report shall contain the findings of the committee on the subject matter of the inquiry, the grounds on which its findings are based and its recommendations, if any. The report shall be approved by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum. Members who vote against the approval of the report and who do not sign the majority report may make concurring or dissenting opinions.

The report, together with any concurring and dissenting opinion, shall be filed with the Secretary General who shall include the same in the Order of Business within three (3) days from receipt thereof.

In case of joint inquiry, the committees concerned shall be jointly responsible for submitting the report to the House on the measure referred to them for consideration. The first committee mentioned in the joint referral shall be the lead committee and shall be principally responsible for preparing the report to the House: *Provided*, That the committees may decide to designate which committee among them shall prepare the report.

Section 17. *Plenary Action on the Report.* – The report, upon inclusion in the Order of Business, shall be referred to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action. The Committee on Rules shall, thereafter, include the report in the Calendar of Business.

Upon inclusion of the report in the Calendar of Business, the Plenary may approve or adopt, disapprove or reject, in whole or in part, the report and its recommendation(s) or commit it to the archives.

Section 18. *Internal Rules.* – The committee tasked to conduct an inquiry may adopt internal rules of procedure: *Provided*, That these rules are consistent with the Rules of the House and to these rules.

Section 19. *Rules of Procedure and Evidence.* – The Rules of Court shall be suppletory to these rules.

Section 20. *Effectivity.* – These Rules shall take effect seven (7) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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**Index to the
Rules of Procedure Governing
Inquiries in Aid of Legislation**

1/5 of Committee Members 106, 107
2/3 vote of Members present 110
2 postponements of appearance 109
3 days before Hearing 108
7 days after receipt of notice 109, 113
48 hours before Hearing 109
60 calendar days 112

A

Acting Chairperson 107, 110
Acting Speaker
Signature 107

Appearance

Counsel 111
Postponement 109
Witness 107, 109

Article VI (sec. 21) 105

Attendance

in Executive Sessions 107
Witnesses 107-108

Authority

City 108
Town 108

B

C

Calendar of Business 107, 112, 113
Chairperson 106, 107, 108, 110, 112
Change of referral 106
Commencement (Inquiry) 112
Committee
Conduct of inquiry 106
Lead 112
Secretary 108
Committee on Rules 105, 106, 108, 113
Committee Report

Final 107

Release 112

Committee Secretary 108

Communications, Privileged 108

Conduct of Inquiry 106

Majority of vote 106

Sub-committees

Findings 106

Recommendations 106

Contempt

Grounds 110

Counsel

Appearance 111
de Officio 111
For a witness 111
Participation 111
Removal 111

D

Date of commencement 112
Deputy Majority Leaders 105, 107
Deputy Minority Leaders 107
Deputy Speakers 107

E

Effectivity 113
Examination 107
Executive Sessions
Attendance 107
Testimonies 107

F

G

H**Hearing****Persons affected by***Rights and duties* 109-110*Public* 107, 109**House of Representatives** 105**I****Information***Date of referral* 112**Inquiry***Conduct* 106, 107*Joint* 107, 112*Modes of Initiation* 105*Termination* 112**Investigation** 107**J****Joint inquiry** 107**Joint investigation** 107**Joint referrals** 107**Jurisdiction (Modes of Initiation)** 105**K****L****M****Majority Leader** 107*Motion***Majority vote** 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112**Members***Committee* 106, 107**Minority Leader** 107**Modes of Initiation***Motu proprio* 105**Referral***Petition* 105*Privilege Speech* 106*Resolution* 106**Motion***Majority Leader* 105**Mother committee** 106***Motu proprio*** 105**N****Non-government officials***Summoned by the Committee* 108**Notice (Hearing)***7 days after receipt* 109, 113**O****Oath** 106*Testify* 108**Offensive***Decency* 107*Public morals* 107**Order of Business** 106, 112, 113**P****Penalty** 110**Person so notified** 109**Person testifying***Privileges* 110**Persons affected by a Hearing***Notice* 109*Rights and duties* 109**Petition** 106*Date of referral* 112**Plenary Action on the Report** 113

Police officer 108
Power to Conduct Inquiries 105
Prepared Statement 109
Privilege speech 105
 Date of referral 112
Proceedings
 Official transcript 109
Public hearing 107, 109
Public session 110

Q

Quorum 107, 109, 110, 125

R

Recommendations (Report of Committee) 112
Record of testimonies 109
Referral
 Change of referral
 Petition 106
 Privilege speech 106
 Resolution 106
 Joint 107, 112
Refusal 110
Release of Record of Testimonies of Witnesses 111
Report of Committee
 Approval 112
 Findings 112
 Plenary Action 113
 Recommendations 112
Report on the Investigation 106
Resolutions 105
 Date of referral 112
Return Receipt 109
Right against self-incrimination 108
Rights and Duties of Persons Affected by a Hearing 109

Rights and Duties of Witnesses 108
Rules, Committee on 105
Rules, Internal 113
Rules of Court 113
Rules of Procedure and Evidence 113
Rules of Procedure Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation
 Appearance of Counsel 111
 Attendance of Witnesses 107-108
 Change of Referral 106
 Conduct of Inquiry 106
 Contempt 110
 Effectivity 113
 Executive Sessions 107
 Internal Rules 113
 Joint Inquiry or Investigation 107
 Modes of Initiation 105
 Penalty 110
 Plenary Action on the Report 113
 Power to Conduct Inquiries 105
 Quorum 107
 Report of Committee 112, 123
 Rights and Duties of Persons Affected by a Hearing 109-110
 Rights and Duties of Witnesses 109-110
 Rules of Procedure and Evidence 113
 Safekeeping and Release of Record of Testimonies of Witnesses 111-112
 Termination of Inquiry 112
Rules of the House 113

S

Safekeeping of Record of Testimonies of Witnesses 111
Secretary General 108, 112
Section 21, Article VI (Constitution) 105
Security, National 107
Self-incrimination, Right against 108
Sergeant-at-Arms 108, 110

Speaker 106*Signature* 107**Statement***Prepared* 109*Written* 109**Sub-committee***Majority of Members* 106*Findings* 106*Recommendations* 106**Subpoena Ad Testificandum***Metro Manila* 108*Outside Metro Manila* 108**Subpoena Duces Tecum***Metro Manila* 108*Outside Metro Manila* 108**Summary statements** 106**T****Termination of Inquiry** 112**Testimonies** 107*Witness* 109, 111**U****V****Vote***2/3 of Members present* 110*Majority* 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 111, 112**W****Witnesses****Appearance***Postponement* 109*Attendance* 107-108*Counsel* 112**Expenses***Transportation* 108*Information presented* 108*Oath* 108*Privileged communications* 108**Rights and duties** 109-110*Against self-incrimination* 108*Scheduled Hearing* 108*Statement* 109*Testimonies* 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112**Written Statement** 109

Part Three



RULES OF PROCEDURE IN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS



RULES OF PROCEDURE IN IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 19TH CONGRESS



RULE I *Applicability of Rules*

Section 1. *Applicability of Rules.* – These Rules shall apply to all proceedings for impeachment in the House of Representatives against the President, Vice-President, the Members of the Supreme Court, the Members of the Constitutional Commissions and the Ombudsman for culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes or betrayal of public trust.

RULE II *Initiating Impeachment*

Section 2. *Mode of Initiating Impeachment.* – Impeachment shall be initiated by the filing and subsequent referral to the Committee on Justice of:¹

- a. a verified complaint for impeachment filed by any Member of the House of Representatives or;
- b. a verified complaint filed by any citizen upon a resolution of endorsement by any Member thereof; or
- c. a verified complaint or resolution of impeachment filed by at least one-third (1/3) of all the Members of the House.

¹ *The Supreme Court decision in Francisco et al. vs. House of Representatives (GR No. 160261, 10 November 2003), states that Impeachment proceedings are initiated upon filing of the complaint and/or resolution and its referral to the Committee on Justice.*

Section 3. *Filing and Referral of Verified Complaints.* – A verified complaint for impeachment by a Member of the House or by any citizen upon a resolution of endorsement by any Member thereof shall be filed with the office of the Secretary General and immediately referred to the Speaker.

An impeachment complaint is verified by an affidavit that the complainant has read the complaint and that the allegations therein are true and correct of his personal knowledge or based on authentic records.

An impeachment complaint required to be verified which contains a verification based on “information and belief”, or upon “knowledge, information and belief,” or lacks a proper verification, shall be treated as an unsigned impeachment complaint.

The Speaker shall have it included in the Order of Business within ten (10) session days from receipt. It shall then be referred to the Committee on Justice within three (3) session days thereafter.

RULE III

Finding Probable Cause for Impeachment

A. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

Section 4. *Determination of Sufficiency in Form.* – Upon due referral, the Committee on Justice shall determine whether the complaint is sufficient in form. If the committee finds that the complaint is insufficient in form, it shall return the same to the Secretary General within three (3) session days with a written explanation of the insufficiency. The Secretary General shall return the same to the complainant(s) together with the committee’s written explanation within three (3) session days from receipt of the committee resolution finding the complaint insufficient in form.

Section 5. *Determination of Sufficiency in Substance.* – Should the committee find the complaint sufficient in form, it shall then

determine if the complaint is sufficient in substance. The requirement of substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the committee. If the committee finds that the complaint is not sufficient in substance, it shall dismiss the complaint and shall submit its report as provided hereunder.

Section 6. Notice to Respondents and Time to Plead. – If the committee finds the complaint sufficient in form and substance, it shall immediately furnish the respondent(s) with a copy of the resolution and/or verified complaint, as the case may be, with written notice that the respondent shall answer the complaint within ten (10) days from receipt of notice thereof and serve a copy of the answer to the complainant(s). No motion to dismiss shall be allowed within the period to answer the complaint.

The answer, which shall be under oath, may include affirmative defenses. If the respondent fails or refuses to file an answer within the reglementary period, the respondent is deemed to have interposed a general denial to the complaint. Within three (3) days from receipt of the answer, the complainant may file a reply, serving a copy thereof to the respondent who may file a rejoinder within three (3) days from receipt of the reply, serving a copy thereof to the complainant. If the complainant fails to file a reply, all the material allegations in the answer are deemed controverted. Together with their pleadings, the parties shall file their affidavits or counter-affidavits, as the case may be, with their documentary evidence. Such affidavits or counter-affidavits shall be subscribed before the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice or the Secretary General. Notwithstanding all the foregoing, failure to file an answer will not preclude the respondent from presenting evidence to support the defenses.

When there are more than one respondent, each shall be furnished with a copy of the verified complaint of a Member of the House or a copy of the verified complaint of a private citizen together with the resolution of endorsement thereof by a Member of the House of Representatives and a written notice to answer. In this case, reference to respondent in these Rules shall be understood as respondents.

Section 7. *Submission of Evidence and Memoranda.* – After receipt of the pleadings, affidavits and counter-affidavits and relevant documents provided for in *Section 6*, or the expiration of the time within which they may be filed, the Committee shall determine whether the complaint alleges sufficient grounds for impeachment.

If it finds that sufficient grounds for impeachment do not exist, the Committee shall dismiss the complaint and submit the report required hereunder. If the Committee finds that sufficient grounds for impeachment exist, the Committee shall conduct a hearing. The Committee, through the Chairperson, may limit the period of examination and cross-examination by members of the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to issue compulsory processes for the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents and other related evidence.

Hearings before the Committee shall be open to the public except when the security of the State or public interest requires that the hearings be held in executive session.

After the submission of evidence, the Committee may require the submission of memoranda, after which the matter shall be submitted for resolution.

Section 8. *Protection to Complainants or Witnesses.* – The House may, upon proper petition, provide adequate protection to a complainant or witness if it is shown that the personal safety of the complainant or witness is in jeopardy because of participating in the impeachment proceeding.

Section 9. *Report and Recommendation.* – The Committee on Justice after hearing, and by a majority vote of all its Members, shall submit its report to the House containing its findings and recommendations within sixty (60) session days from the referral to it of the verified complaint and/or resolution. Together with the report shall be a formal resolution of the Committee regarding the disposition of the complaint which shall be calendared for consideration by the House within ten (10) session days from receipt thereof.

If the Committee finds by a vote of the majority of all its Members that a probable cause exists on the basis of the evidence adduced before the Committee, it shall submit with its report a resolution setting forth the Articles of Impeachment. Otherwise, the complaint shall be dismissed subject to *Section 12* of these Rules.

Section 10. *Report to be Calendared.* – The Committee on Rules shall calendar the report and the accompanying resolution of the Committee on Justice regarding the disposition of the complaint in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives. The House shall dispose of the report within sixty (60) session days from its submission by the Committee on Justice.

B. HOUSE ACTION

Section 11. *Vote Required for Approval.* – A vote of at least one-third (1/3) of all the Members of the House is necessary for the approval of the resolution setting forth the Articles of Impeachment. If the resolution is approved by the required vote, it shall then be endorsed to the Senate.

On the other hand, should the resolution fail to secure approval by the required vote, it shall result in the dismissal of the complaint for impeachment.

Section 12. *Where Dismissal Recommended.* – When the report of the Committee on Justice dismisses the complaint, it shall submit to the House a resolution for the dismissal of the verified complaint and/or resolution of impeachment. A vote of at least one-third (1/3) of all the Members of the House shall be necessary to override such resolution, in which case the Committee on Justice shall forthwith prepare the Articles of Impeachment.

Section 13. *Vote by Roll Call.* – The voting on a resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the Committee on Justice or a contrary resolution dismissing the impeachment complaint shall be by roll call, and the Secretary General shall record the vote of each Member.

RULE IV
Verified Complaint/Resolution
by One-Third of Members

Section 14. *Endorsement of the Complaint/Resolution to the Senate.* – A verified complaint/resolution of impeachment filed by at least one-third (1/3) of all the Members of the House shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and in this case the verified complaint/resolution shall be endorsed to the Senate in the same manner as an approved bill of the House.

The complaint/resolution must, at the time of filing, be verified and sworn to before the Secretary General by each of the Members constituting at least one-third (1/3) of all the Members of the House.

The contents of the verification shall be as follows:

"We, after being sworn in accordance with law, depose and state: That we are the complainants in the above-entitled complaint/resolution of impeachment; that we have caused the said complaint/resolution to be prepared and have read the contents thereof; and that the allegations therein are true of our own knowledge and belief on the basis of our reading and appreciation of documents and other records pertinent thereto.

_____ "

(Signature)

RULE V
Bar Against Impeachment

Section 15. *Scope of Bar.* – No impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one (1) year.

RULE VI

Prosecutor in All Impeachment Proceedings

Section 16. *Impeachment Prosecutor.* – The House of Representatives shall act as the prosecutor at the trial in the Senate through a committee of eleven (11) Members thereof to be elected by a majority vote of the Members present, there being a quorum.

RULE VII

Applicability of the Rules of Court

Section 17. *Rules of Procedure.* – The Rules of Court shall, as far as practicable, apply to impeachment proceedings before the House.

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Published, June 2, 2023

**Index to the
Rules of Procedure in
Impeachment Proceedings**

1/3 of Members 123, 127, 128
3 days from receipt of answer 125
10 days from receipt of notice 125
10 session days from receipt 124, 126
11 Members 129
60 session days 126, 127

A

Affidavit 124, 125, 126
Applicability
 Rules 123
 Rules of Court 129
Articles of Impeachment 127, 128

B

Bar against Impeachment
 Scope 128
Betrayal of public trust 123
Bribery 123

C

Committee on Justice 123, 124, 125, 126, 127
 Report and recommendation 126
 Resolution 123, 124, 125, 126, 127
Committee on Rules 127
Committee Proceedings 124-127
 Determination of sufficiency
 Form 124
 Substance 124-125
 Notice to respondents 125
 Protection
 Complainants 126
 Witnesses 126
 Report and recommendation 126-127
 Report to be calendared 127
 Submissions
 Evidence 126
 Memoranda 126
Complainants 128
 Protection 126
Complaints
 Dismissal 127

Filing and referral 124
Unsigned impeachment complaint 124
Verification 124

Verified

 1/3 of Members 123, 127
 Citizen 124
 Endorsement to the Senate 128
 Member 124

Constitution

Culpable violation 123

Constitutional Commission

Members 123

Counter-affidavit 125

Crimes 123

D

Determination of sufficiency

Form 124
 Substance 124-125

Documentary evidence 125

E

Evidence 126-127
 Documentary 125

F

Filing

Answer 125
 Verified complaint 123

Finding probable cause 124-127

Committee Proceedings

Determination of sufficiency in form and substance 124-125
 Notice to respondents and time to plead 125
 Protection to complainants or witnesses 126
 Report and recommendation 126-127
 Report to be calendared 127
 Submission of evidence and memoranda 126

House Action

Dismissal recommended 127
Vote by roll call 127
Vote required for approval 127

G

Graft and corruption 123

H

High crimes 123

House Action

Dismissal recommended 127
Vote by roll call 127
Vote required for approval 127

House of Representatives

As Impeachment Prosecutor 129

I

Impeachment

Against

Constitutional Commission Members 123
Ombudsman 123
President 123
Supreme Court Members 123
Vice-President 123

Articles 127, 128

Complaints 124, 127

Filing 124

Finding probable cause

Committee Proceedings 124-127
House Action 127

Initiating

Filing and referral of verified complaints 124
Mode 123

Proceedings 123, 129

Prosecutor 129

Referral of verified complaints 124

Impeachment Prosecutor 129

J

Justice, Committee on 123, 124, 125, 126, 127

K

L

M

Majority vote of Members 126, 129

Members, House 123, 124

Memoranda 126

Mode of initiating 123

Resolution

Endorsement 124

Impeachment 123, 127, 128

Verified complaint

1/3 Members of the House 123

Citizens 123

Filing 124

Member of the House 123

Referral 124

Motion to dismiss 125

N

Notice to respondents 125

O

Ombudsman 123

Order of Business 124

P

Periods

Cross-examination 126

Examination 126

President 123

Prosecutor, Impeachment 129

Protection

Complainants 126

Witnesses 126

Q

R

Receipt

- Affidavit* 126
- Counter-affidavits* 126
- Pleadings* 126
- Relevant documents* 126

Recommendation 126

Referral

- Verified complaint* 123, 124

Reglementary period 125

Rejoinder 125

Report

- To be calendared* 127

Report and recommendation 126-127

Resolution

- By one third of Members* 128
- Endorsement** 124
 - to the Senate* 128
- Impeachment* 123

Respondents

- Notice* 125

Roll call 107

Rules of Court

- Applicability* 129

Rules of Procedure in Impeachment

Proceedings

- Applicability of Rules* 123
- Applicability of the Rules of Court* 129
- Bar Against Impeachment* 128
- Finding probable cause for Impeachment* 124-125

Committee Proceedings

- Determination of sufficiency in form and substance* 124-125
- Notice to respondents and time to plead* 125
- Protection to complainants or witnesses* 126
- Report and recommendation* 126-127

- Report to be calendared* 127

- Submission of evidence and memoranda* 126

House Action

- Dismissal recommended* 127
- Vote by roll call* 127
- Vote required for approval* 127

Initiating Impeachment

- Filing and referral of verified complaints* 124
- Mode* 123

Prosecutor in All Impeachment Proceedings 129

Verified Complaint/Resolution by One-Third of Members 128

Rules of the House of Representatives 127

Rules, Committee on 127

S

Scope of bar 128

Secretary General 124, 125, 127

Senate of the Philippines 127, 128, 129

Speaker 104

Submissions

- Evidence* 126
- Memoranda* 126

Sufficiency

- Form* 124
- Substance* 124-125

Supreme Court

- Members* 123

T

Time to plead 125

Treason 123

U

V

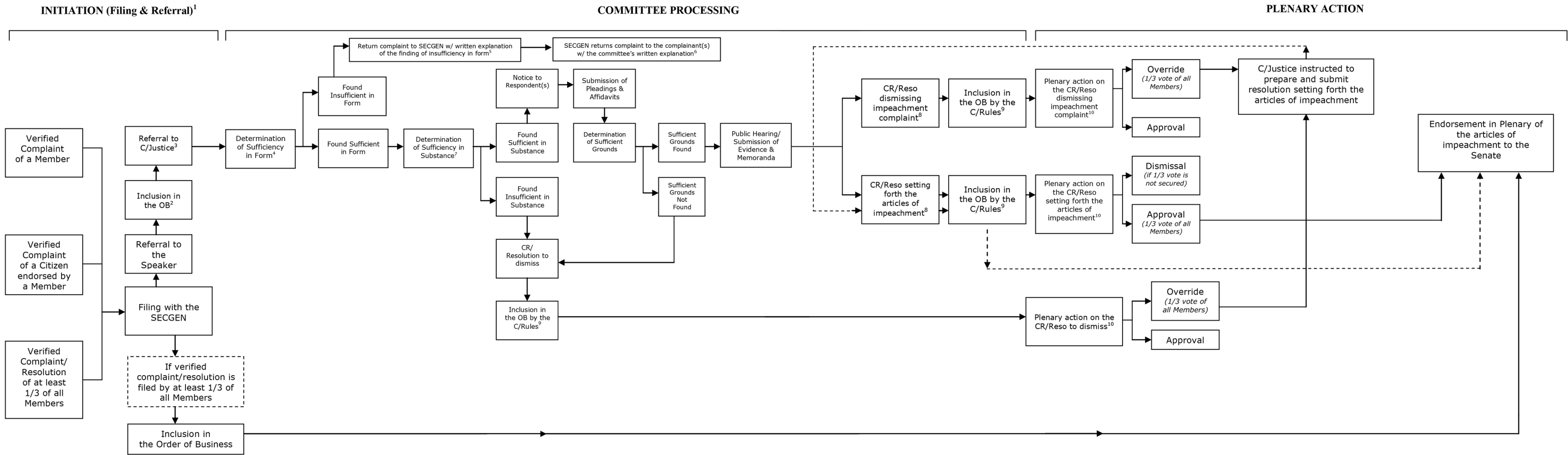
Verification

- Contents* 128

Verified complaints 124*1/3 Members of the House* 123, 128*Citizens* 123*Endorsement to the Senate* 128*Filing* 124*Member of the House* 123*Referral* 124**Vice-President** 123**Voting***Dismissal recommended* 127*Required for approval* 127*Roll Call* 127**W****Witnesses***Protection* 126**Written notice to answer** 125

FLOW CHARTS

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS



¹ Sec. 2, Rule II of the House Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings. In a SC decision, impeachment proceedings are initiated upon filing of the complaint and/or resolution and its referral to the C/Justice (Francisco et al., Vs. House of Representatives, GR No. 160261; 10 November 2003)

² within 10 session days from receipt of the Speaker

³ within 3 session days after inclusion in the Order of Business

⁴ The requirement of sufficiency in form is met if the complaint is verified and sworn to as provided in the Rules of Court, and the resolution of endorsement by any Member of the House conforms with the prescribed format of House resolutions

⁵ within 3 session days

⁶ within 3 session days from receipt of the committee resolution finding the complaint insufficient in form

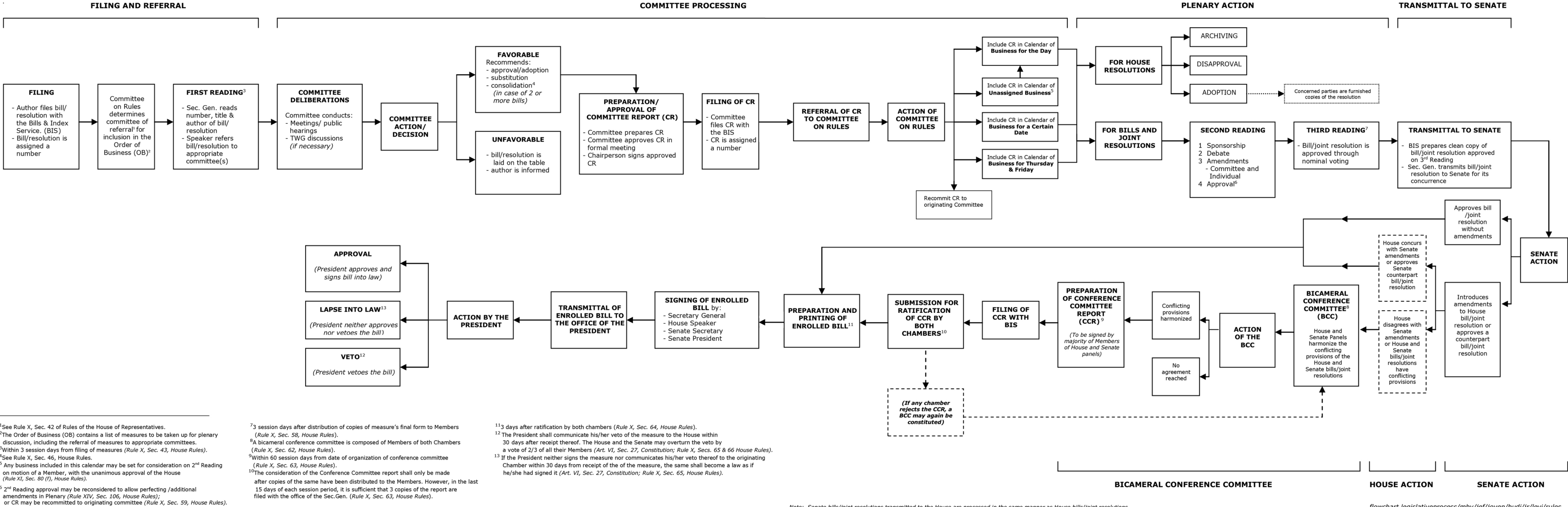
⁷ The requirement of sufficiency in substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the C/Justice

⁸ within 60 session days from the referral to the C/Justice

⁹ within 10 session days from the receipt of the CR/Resolution by the C/Rules

¹⁰ within 60 session days from submission of the CR/Resolution by the C/Justice

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



¹See Rule X, Sec. 42 of Rules of the House of Representatives.

²The Order of Business (OB) contains a list of measures to be taken up for plenary discussion, including the referral of measures to appropriate committees.

³Within 3 session days from filing of measures (Rule X, Sec. 43, House Rules).

⁴See Rule X, Sec. 46, House Rules.

⁵Any business included in this calendar may be set for consideration on 2nd Reading on motion of a Member, with the unanimous approval of the House (Rule XI, Sec. 80 (f), House Rules).

⁶2nd Reading approval may be reconsidered to allow perfecting /additional amendments in Plenary (Rule XIV, Sec. 106, House Rules); or CR may be recommitted to originating committee (Rule X, Sec. 59, House Rules).

⁷3 session days after distribution of copies of measure's final form to Members (Rule X, Sec. 58, House Rules).

⁸A bicameral conference committee is composed of Members of both Chambers (Rule X, Sec. 62, House Rules).

⁹Within 60 session days from date of organization of conference committee (Rule X, Sec. 63, House Rules).

¹⁰The consideration of the Conference Committee report shall only be made after copies of the same have been distributed to the Members. However, in the last 15 days of each session period, it is sufficient that 3 copies of the report are filed with the office of the Sec.Gen. (Rule X, Sec. 63, House Rules).

¹¹3 days after ratification by both chambers (Rule X, Sec. 64, House Rules).

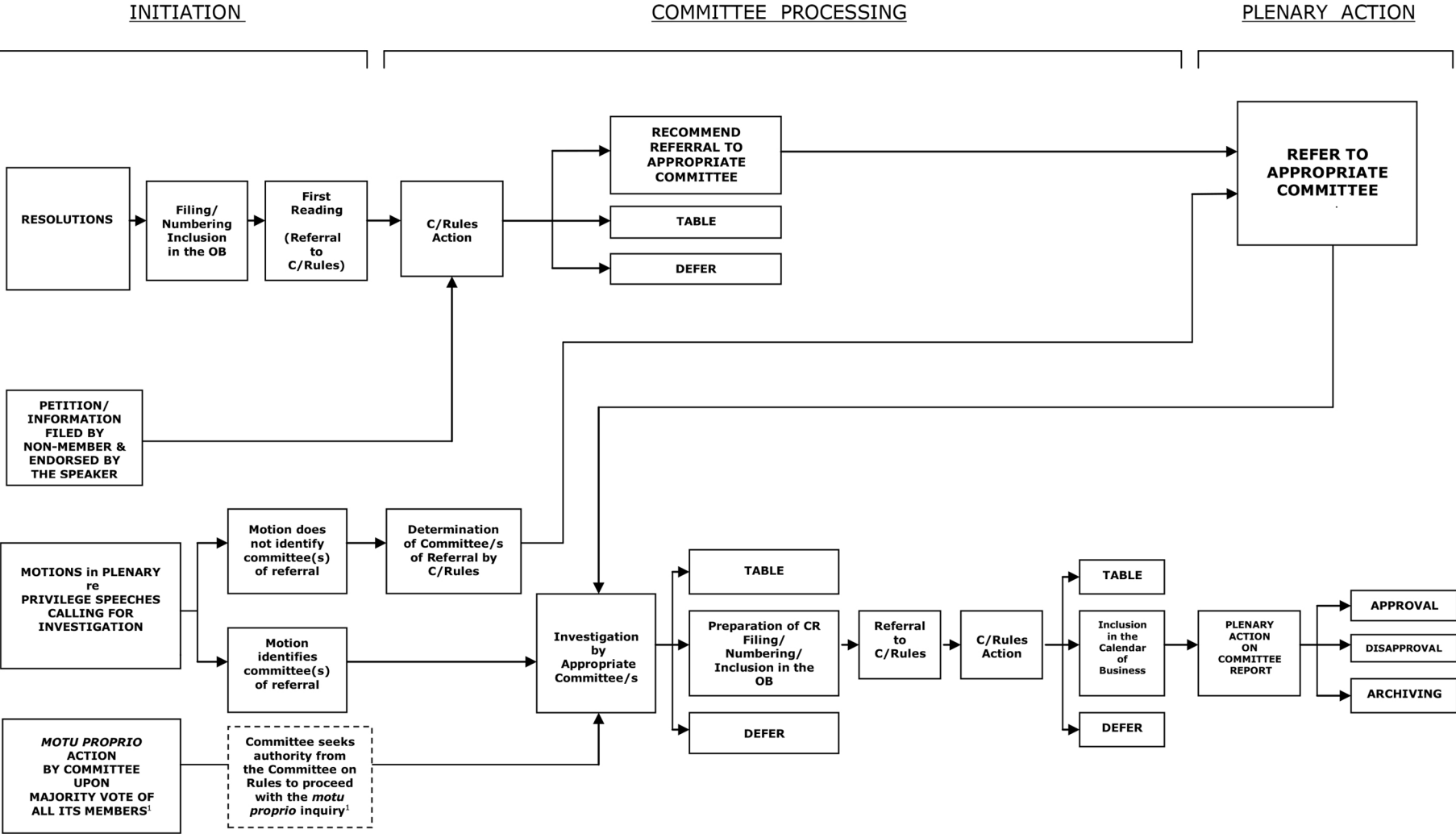
¹²The President shall communicate his/her veto of the measure to the House within 30 days after receipt thereof. The House and the Senate may overturn the veto by a vote of 2/3 of all their Members (Art. VI, Sec. 27, Constitution; Rule X, Secs. 65 & 66 House Rules).

¹³If the President neither signs the measure nor communicates his/her veto thereof to the originating Chamber within 30 days from receipt of the of the measure, the same shall become a law as if he/she had signed it (Art. VI, Sec. 27, Constitution; Rule X, Sec. 65, House Rules).

Note: Senate bills/joint resolutions transmitted to the House are processed in the same manner as House bills/joint resolutions

flowchart.legislativeprocess/mbj/jeff/joven/budi/jr/levi/rules

INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION



¹ See Sec. 2, Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation

Appendix

1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



P R E A M B L E

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

ARTICLE I NATIONAL TERRITORY

The national territory comprises the Philippine archipelago, with all the islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction, consisting of its terrestrial, fluvial, and aerial domains, including its territorial sea, the seabed, the subsoil, the insular shelves, and other submarine areas. The waters around, between, and connecting the islands of the archipelago, regardless of their breadth and dimensions, form part of the internal waters of the Philippines.

ARTICLE II DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND STATE POLICIES

PRINCIPLES

Section 1. The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.

Sec. 2. The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as

part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.

Sec. 3. Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

Sec. 4. The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service.

Sec. 5. The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

Sec. 6. The separation of Church and State shall be inviolable.

STATE POLICIES

Sec. 7. The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other States the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination.

Sec. 8. The Philippines, consistent with the national interest, adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory.

Sec. 9. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

Sec. 10. The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development.

Sec. 11. The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

Sec. 12. The State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government.

Sec. 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Sec. 14. The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.

Sec. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Sec. 16. The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Sec. 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Sec. 18. The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

Sec. 19. The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos.

Sec. 20. The State recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector, encourages private enterprise, and provides incentives to needed investments.

Sec. 21. The State shall promote comprehensive rural development and agrarian reform.

Sec. 22. The State recognizes and promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities within the framework of national unity and development.

Sec. 23. The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.

Sec. 24. The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.

Sec. 25. The State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments.

Sec. 26. The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law.

Sec. 27. The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption.

Sec. 28. Subject to reasonable conditions prescribed by law, the State adopts and implements a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving public interest.

ARTICLE III **BILL OF RIGHTS**

Section 1. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.

Sec. 2. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures of whatever nature and for any purpose shall be inviolable, and no search warrant or warrant of arrest shall issue except upon probable cause to be determined personally by the judge after examination under oath or affirmation of the complainant and the witnesses he may produce, and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Sec. 3. (1) The privacy of communication and correspondence shall be inviolable except upon lawful order of the court, or when public safety or order requires otherwise as prescribed by law.

(2) Any evidence obtained in violation of this or the preceding section shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding.

Sec. 4. No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

Sec. 5. No law shall be made respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed. No religious test shall be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.

Sec. 6. The liberty of abode and of changing the same within the limits prescribed by law shall not be impaired except upon lawful order of the court. Neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law.

Sec. 7. The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.

Sec. 8. The right of the people, including those employed in the public and private sectors, to form unions, associations, or societies for purposes not contrary to law shall not be abridged.

Sec. 9. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation.

Sec. 10. No law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed.

Sec. 11. Free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty.

Sec. 12. (1) Any person under investigation for the commission of an offense shall have the right to be informed of his right to remain silent and to have competent and independent counsel preferably of his own choice. If the person cannot afford the services of counsel, he must be provided with one. These rights cannot be waived except in writing and in the presence of counsel.

(2) No torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation, or any other means which vitiate the free will shall be used against him. Secret detention places, solitary, incommunicado, or other similar forms of detention are prohibited.

(3) Any confession or admission obtained in violation of this or Section 17 hereof shall be inadmissible in evidence against him.

(4) The law shall provide for penal and civil sanctions for violations of this section as well as compensation to and rehabilitation of victims of torture or similar practices, and their families.

Sec. 13. All persons, except those charged with offenses punishable by reclusion perpetua when evidence of guilt is strong, shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient sureties, or be released on recognizance as may be provided by law. The right to bail shall not be impaired even when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended. Excessive bail shall not be required.

Sec. 14. (1) No person shall be held to answer for a criminal offense without due process of law.

(2) In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved, and shall enjoy the right to be heard by himself and counsel, to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a speedy, impartial, and public trial, to meet the witnesses face to face, and to have compulsory process to secure the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence in his behalf. However, after arraignment, trial may proceed notwithstanding the absence of the accused provided that he has been duly notified and his failure to appear is unjustifiable.

Sec. 15. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended except in cases of invasion or rebellion when the public safety requires it.

Sec. 16. All persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies.

Sec. 17. No person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.

Sec. 18. (1) No person shall be detained solely by reason of his political beliefs and aspirations.

(2) No involuntary servitude in any form shall exist except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.

Sec. 19. (1) Excessive fines shall not be imposed, nor cruel, degrading or inhuman punishment inflicted. Neither shall death penalty be imposed, unless, for compelling reasons involving heinous crimes, the Congress hereafter provides for it. Any death penalty already imposed shall be reduced to reclusion perpetua.

(2) The employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee or the use of substandard

or inadequate penal facilities under subhuman conditions shall be dealt with by law.

Sec. 20. No person shall be imprisoned for debt or non-payment of a poll tax.

Sec. 21. No person shall be twice put in jeopardy of punishment for the same offense. If an act is punished by a law and an ordinance, conviction or acquittal under either shall constitute a bar to another prosecution for the same act.

Sec. 22. No ex post facto law or bill of attainder shall be enacted.

ARTICLE IV **CITIZENSHIP**

Section 1. The following are citizens of the Philippines:

- (1) Those who are citizens of the Philippines at the time of the adoption of this Constitution;
- (2) Those whose fathers or mothers are citizens of the Philippines;
- (3) Those born before January 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority; and
- (4) Those who are naturalized in accordance with law.

Sec. 2. Natural-born citizens are those who are citizens of the Philippines from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship. Those who elect Philippine citizenship in accordance with paragraph (3), Section 1 hereof shall be deemed natural-born citizens.

Sec. 3. Philippine citizenship may be lost or reacquired in the manner provided by law.

Sec. 4. Citizens of the Philippines who marry aliens shall retain their citizenship, unless by their act or omission they are deemed, under the law, to have renounced it.

Sec. 5. Dual allegiance of citizens is inimical to the national interest and shall be dealt with by law.

ARTICLE V SUFFRAGE

Section 1. Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage.

Sec. 2. The Congress shall provide a system for securing the secrecy and sanctity of the ballot as well as a system for absentee voting by qualified Filipinos abroad.

The Congress shall also design a procedure for the disabled and the illiterates to vote without the assistance of other persons. Until then, they shall be allowed to vote under existing laws and such rules as the Commission on Elections may promulgate to protect the secrecy of the ballot.

ARTICLE VI THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Section 1. The legislative power shall be vested in the Congress of the Philippines which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives, except to the extent reserved to the people by the provision on initiative and referendum.

Sec. 2. The Senate shall be composed of twenty-four Senators who shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the Philippines, as may be provided by law.

Sec. 3. No person shall be a Senator unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, and, on the day of the election, is at least thirty-five years of age, able to read and write, a registered voter, and a resident of the Philippines for not less than two years immediately preceding the day of the election.

Sec. 4. The term of office of the Senators shall be six years and shall commence, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election.

No Senator shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.

Sec. 5. (1) The House of Representatives shall be composed of not more than two hundred and fifty members, unless otherwise fixed by law, who shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities, and the Metropolitan Manila area in accordance with the number of their respective inhabitants, and on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio, and those who, as provided by law, shall be elected through a party-list system of registered national, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations.

(2) The party-list representatives shall constitute twenty per centum of the total number of representatives including those under the party list. For three consecutive terms after the ratification of this Constitution, one-half of the seats allocated to party-list representative shall be filled, as provided by law, by selection or election from the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector.

(3) Each legislative district shall comprise, as far as practicable, contiguous, compact and adjacent territory. Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative.

(4) Within three years following the return of every census, the Congress shall make a reapportionment of legislative districts based on the standards provided in this section.

Sec. 6. No person shall be a Member of the House of Representatives unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines and, on the day of the election, is at least twenty-five years of age, able to read and write, and, except the party-list representatives, a registered voter in the district in which he shall be elected, and a resident thereof for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the day of the election.

Sec. 7. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for a term of three years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election.

No Member of the House of Representatives shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.

Sec. 8. Unless otherwise provided by law, the regular election of the Senators and the Members of the House of Representatives shall be held on the second Monday of May.

Sec. 9. In case of vacancy in the Senate or in the House of Representatives, a special election may be called to fill such vacancy in the manner prescribed by law, but the Senator or Member of the House of Representatives thus elected shall serve only for the unexpired term.

Sec. 10. The salaries of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be determined by law. No increase in said compensation shall take effect until after the expiration of the full term of all the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives approving such increase.

Sec. 11. A Senator or Member of the House of Representatives shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment,

be privileged from arrest while the Congress is in session. No Member shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof.

Sec. 12. All Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall, upon assumption of office, make a full disclosure of their financial and business interests. They shall notify the House concerned of a potential conflict of interest that may arise from the filing of a proposed legislation of which they are authors.

Sec. 13. No Senator or Member of the House of Representatives may hold any other office or employment in the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries, during his term without forfeiting his seat. Neither shall he be appointed to any office which may have been created or the emoluments thereof increased during the term for which he was elected.

Sec. 14. No Senator or Member of the House of Representatives may personally appear as counsel before any court of justice or before the Electoral Tribunals, or quasi-judicial and other administrative bodies. Neither shall he, directly or indirectly, be interested financially in any contract with, or in any franchise or special privilege granted by the Government, or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or controlled corporation, or its subsidiary, during his term of office. He shall not intervene in any matter before any office of the Government for his pecuniary benefit or where he may be called upon to act on account of his office.

Sec. 15. The Congress shall convene once every year on the fourth Monday of July for its regular session, unless a different date is fixed by law, and shall continue to be in session for such number of days as it may determine until thirty days before the opening of its next regular session, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The President may call a special session at any time.

Sec. 16. (1) The Senate shall elect its President and the House of Representatives its Speaker, by a majority vote of all its respective Members.

Each House shall choose such other officers as it may deem necessary.

(2) A majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel the attendance of absent Members in such manner, and under such penalties, as such House may provide.

(3) Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its Members, suspend or expel a Member. A penalty of suspension, when imposed, shall not exceed sixty days.

(4) Each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may, in its judgment, affect national security; and the yeas and nays on any question shall, at the request of one-fifth of the Members present, be entered in the Journal.

Each House shall also keep a Record of its proceedings.

(5) Neither House during the sessions of the Congress shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Sec. 17. The Senate and the House of Representatives shall each have an Electoral Tribunal which shall be the sole judge of all contests relating to the election, returns, and qualifications of their respective Members. Each Electoral Tribunal shall be composed of nine Members, three of whom shall be Justices of the Supreme Court to be designated by the Chief Justice, and the remaining six shall be Members of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as the case may be, who shall be chosen on the basis of proportional representation from the political parties and the parties or organizations registered under the party-list system represented therein. The senior Justice in the Electoral Tribunal shall be its Chairman.

Sec. 18. There shall be a Commission on Appointments consisting of the President of the Senate, as ex officio Chairman, twelve Senators and twelve Members of the House of Representatives, elected by each House on the basis of proportional representation from the political parties and parties or organizations registered under the party-list system represented therein. The Chairman of the Commission shall not vote, except in case of a tie. The Commission shall act on all appointments submitted to it within thirty session days of the Congress from their submission. The Commission shall rule by a majority vote of all the Members.

Sec. 19. The Electoral Tribunals and the Commission on Appointments shall be constituted within thirty days after the Senate and the House of Representatives shall have been organized with the election of the President and the Speaker. The Commission on Appointments shall meet only while the Congress is in session, at the call of its Chairman or a majority of all its Members, to discharge such powers and functions as are herein conferred upon it.

Sec. 20. The records and books of accounts of the Congress shall be preserved and be open to the public in accordance with law, and such books shall be audited by the Commission on Audit which shall publish annually an itemized list of amounts paid to and expenses incurred for each Member.

Sec. 21. The Senate or the House of Representatives or any of its respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation in accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

Sec. 22. The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House, as the Rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments. Written questions shall be submitted to the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives at least three days before their scheduled appearance. Interpellations shall not be limited to written questions, but may cover matters related thereto. When the security of the State or the public interest so requires and the President

so states in writing, the appearance shall be conducted in executive session.

Sec. 23. (1) The Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately, shall have the sole power to declare the existence of a state of war.

(2) In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy. Unless sooner withdrawn by resolution of the Congress, such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment thereof.

Sec. 24. All appropriation, revenue or tariff bills, bills authorizing increase of the public debt, bills of local application, and private bills shall originate exclusively in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments.

Sec. 25. (1) The Congress may not increase the appropriations recommended by the President for the operation of the Government as specified in the budget. The form, content, and manner of preparation of the budget shall be prescribed by law.

(2) No provision or enactment shall be embraced in the general appropriations bill unless it relates specifically to some particular appropriation therein. Any such provision or enactment shall be limited in its operation to the appropriation to which it relates.

(3) The procedure in approving appropriations for the Congress shall strictly follow the procedure for approving appropriations for other departments and agencies.

(4) A special appropriations bill shall specify the purpose for which it is intended, and shall be supported by funds actually available as certified by the National Treasurer, or to be raised by a corresponding revenue proposal therein.

(5) No law shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations; however, the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the heads of Constitutional Commissions may, by law, be authorized to augment any item in the general appropriations law for their respective offices from savings in other items of their respective appropriations.

(6) Discretionary funds appropriated for particular officials shall be disbursed only for public purposes to be supported by appropriate vouchers and subject to such guidelines as may be prescribed by law.

(7) If, by the end of any fiscal year, the Congress shall have failed to pass the general appropriations bill for the ensuing fiscal year, the general appropriations law for the preceding fiscal year shall be deemed reenacted and shall remain in force and effect until the general appropriations bill is passed by the Congress.

Sec. 26. (1) Every bill passed by the Congress shall embrace only one subject which shall be expressed in the title thereof.

(2) No bill passed by either House shall become a law unless it has passed three readings on separate days, and printed copies thereof in its final form have been distributed to its Members three days before its passage, except when the President certifies to the necessity of its immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency. Upon the last reading of a bill, no amendment thereto shall be allowed, and the vote thereon shall be taken immediately thereafter, and the yeas and nays entered in the Journal.

Sec. 27. (1) Every bill passed by the Congress shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the President. If he approves the same, he shall sign it; otherwise, he shall veto it and return the same with his objections to the House where it originated, which shall enter the objections at large in its Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds of all the Members of such House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of all the Members of that House, it shall

become a law. In all such cases, the votes of each House shall be determined by yeas or nays, and the names of the Members voting for or against shall be entered in its Journal. The President shall communicate his veto of any bill to the House where it originated within thirty days after the date of receipt thereof; otherwise, it shall become a law as if he had signed it.

(2) The President shall have the power to veto any particular item or items in an appropriation, revenue, or tariff bill, but the veto shall not affect the item or items to which he does not object.

Sec. 28. (1) The rule of taxation shall be uniform and equitable. The Congress shall evolve a progressive system of taxation.

(2) The Congress may, by law, authorize the President to fix within specified limits, and subject to such limitations and restrictions as it may impose, tariff rates, import and export quotas, tonnage and wharfage dues, and other duties or imposts within the framework of the national development program of the Government.

(3) Charitable institutions, churches and parsonages or convents appurtenant thereto, mosques, non-profit cemeteries, and all lands, buildings, and improvements, actually, directly, and exclusively used for religious, charitable, or educational purposes shall be exempt from taxation.

(4) No law granting any tax exemption shall be passed without the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress.

Sec. 29. (1) No money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law.

(2) No public money or property shall be appropriated, applied, paid, or employed, directly or indirectly, for the use, benefit, or support of any sect, church, denomination, sectarian institution, or system of religion, or of any priest, preacher, minister, or other religious teacher, or dignitary as such, except when such priest, preacher, minister, or dignitary is assigned to the armed forces, or to any penal institution, or government orphanage or leprosarium.

(3) All money collected on any tax levied for a special purpose shall be treated as a special fund and paid out for such purpose only. If the purpose for which a special fund was created has been fulfilled or abandoned, the balance, if any, shall be transferred to the general funds of the Government.

Sec. 30. No law shall be passed increasing the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as provided in this Constitution without its advice and concurrence.

Sec. 31. No law granting a title of royalty or nobility shall be enacted.

Sec. 32. The Congress shall, as early as possible, provide for a system of initiative and referendum, and the exceptions therefrom, whereby the people can directly propose and enact laws or approve or reject any act or law or part thereof passed by the Congress or local legislative body after the registration of a petition therefor signed by at least ten per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters thereof.

ARTICLE VII **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in the President of the Philippines.

Sec. 2. No person may be elected President unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, a registered voter, able to read and write, at least forty years of age on the day of the election, and a resident of the Philippines for at least ten years immediately preceding such election.

Sec. 3. There shall be a Vice-President who shall have the same qualifications and term of office and be elected with and in the same manner as the President. He may be removed from office in the same manner as the President.

The Vice-President may be appointed as a Member of the Cabinet. Such appointment requires no confirmation.

Sec. 4. The President and the Vice-President shall be elected by direct vote of the people for a term of six years which shall begin at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following the day of the election and shall end at noon of the same date six years thereafter. The President shall not be eligible for any reelection. No person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time.

No Vice-President shall serve for more than two successive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of the service for the full term for which he was elected.

Unless otherwise provided by law, the regular election for President and Vice-President shall be held on the second Monday of May.

The returns of every election for President and Vice-President, duly certified by the board of canvassers of each province or city, shall be transmitted to the Congress, directed to the President of the Senate. Upon receipt of the certificates of canvass, the President of the Senate shall, not later than thirty days after the day of the election, open all the certificates in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint public session, and the Congress, upon determination of the authenticity and due execution thereof in the manner provided by law, canvass the votes.

The person having the highest number of votes shall be proclaimed elected, but in case two or more shall have an equal and highest number of votes, one of them shall forthwith be chosen by the vote of a majority of all the Members of both Houses of the Congress, voting separately.

The Congress shall promulgate its rules for the canvassing of the certificates.

The Supreme Court, sitting en banc, shall be the sole judge of all contests relating to the election, returns, and qualifications of the President or Vice-President, and may promulgate its rules for the purpose.

Sec. 5. Before they enter on the execution of their office, the President, the Vice-President, or the Acting President shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as President (or Vice-President or Acting President) of the Philippines, preserve and defend its Constitution, execute its laws, do justice to every man, and consecrate myself to the service of the Nation. So help me God." (In case of affirmation, last sentence will be omitted.)

Sec. 6. The President shall have an official residence. The salaries of the President and Vice-President shall be determined by law and shall not be decreased during their tenure. No increase in said compensation shall take effect until after the expiration of the term of the incumbent during which such increase was approved. They shall not receive during their tenure any other emolument from the Government or any other source.

Sec. 7. The President-elect and the Vice-President-elect shall assume office at the beginning of their terms.

If the President-elect fails to qualify, the Vice-President-elect shall act as President until the President-elect shall have qualified.

If a President shall not have been chosen, the Vice-President-elect shall act as President until a President shall have been chosen and qualified.

If at the beginning of the term of the President, the President-elect shall have died or shall have become permanently disabled, the Vice-President-elect shall become President.

Where no President and Vice-President shall have been chosen or shall have qualified, or where both shall have died or become

permanently disabled, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall act as President until a President or a Vice-President shall have been chosen and qualified.

The Congress shall, by law, provide for the manner in which one who is to act as President shall be selected until a President or a Vice-President shall have qualified, in case of death, permanent disability, or inability of the officials mentioned in the next preceding paragraph.

Sec. 8. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall then act as President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified.

The Congress shall, by law, provide who shall serve as President in case of death, permanent disability, or resignation of the Acting President. He shall serve until the President or the Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified, and be subject to the same restrictions of powers and disqualifications as the Acting President.

Sec. 9. Whenever there is a vacancy in the Office of the Vice-President during the term for which he was elected, the President shall nominate a Vice-President from among the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who shall assume office upon confirmation by a majority vote of all the Members of both Houses of the Congress, voting separately.

Sec. 10. The Congress shall, at ten o'clock in the morning of the third day after the vacancy in the offices of the President and Vice-President occurs, convene in accordance with its rules without need of a call and within seven days enact a law calling for a special election to elect a President and a Vice-President to be held not earlier than forty-five days nor later than sixty days from the time of such call. The bill calling such special election shall be deemed certified under paragraph

2, Section 26, Article VI of this Constitution and shall become law upon its approval on third reading by the Congress. Appropriations for the special election shall be charged against any current appropriations and shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph 4, Section 25, Article VI of this Constitution. The convening of the Congress cannot be suspended nor the special election postponed. No special election shall be called if the vacancy occurs within eighteen months before the date of the next presidential election.

Sec. 11. Whenever the President transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice-President as Acting President.

Whenever a majority of all the Members of the Cabinet transmit to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall reassume the powers and duties of his office. Meanwhile, should a majority of all the Members of the Cabinet transmit within five days to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Congress shall decide the issue. For that purpose, the Congress shall convene, if it is not in session, within forty-eight hours, in accordance with its rules and without need of call.

If the Congress, within ten days after receipt of the last written declaration, or, if not in session, within twelve days after it is required to assemble, determines by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately, that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall act as President; otherwise,

the President shall continue exercising the powers and duties of his office.

Sec. 12. In case of serious illness of the President, the public shall be informed of the state of his health. The members of the Cabinet in charge of national security and foreign relations and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, shall not be denied access to the President during such illness.

Sec. 13. The President, Vice-President, the Members of the Cabinet, and their deputies or assistants shall not, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, hold any other office or employment during their tenure. They shall not, during said tenure, directly or indirectly practice any other profession, participate in any business, or be financially interested in any contract with, or in any franchise, or special privilege granted by the Government or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries. They shall strictly avoid conflict of interest in the conduct of their office.

The spouse and relatives by consanguinity or affinity within the fourth civil degree of the President shall not during his tenure be appointed as Members of the Constitutional Commissions, or the Office of the Ombudsman, or as Secretaries, Undersecretaries, chairmen or heads of bureaus or offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries.

Sec. 14. Appointments extended by an Acting President shall remain effective, unless revoked by the elected President within ninety days from his assumption or reassumption of office.

Sec. 15. Two months immediately before the next presidential elections and up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except temporary appointments to executive positions when continued vacancies therein will prejudice public service or endanger public safety.

Sec. 16. The President shall nominate and, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, appoint the heads of the executive

departments, ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, or officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain, and other officers whose appointments are vested in him in this Constitution. He shall also appoint all other officers of the Government whose appointments are not otherwise provided for by law, and those whom he may be authorized by law to appoint. The Congress may, by law, vest the appointment of other officers lower in rank in the President alone, in the courts, or in the heads of departments, agencies, commissions, or boards.

The President shall have the power to make appointments during the recess of the Congress, whether voluntary or compulsory, but such appointments shall be effective only until disapproval by the Commission on Appointments or until the next adjournment of the Congress.

Sec. 17. The President shall have control of all the executive departments, bureaus, and offices. He shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed.

Sec. 18. The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion. In case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it, he may, for a period not exceeding sixty days, suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law. Within forty-eight hours from the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress. The Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President. Upon the initiative of the President, the Congress may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by the Congress, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it.

The Congress, if not in session, shall, within twenty-four hours following such proclamation or suspension, convene in accordance with its rules without need of a call.

The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing.

A state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor supplant the functioning of the civil courts or legislative assemblies, nor authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civilians where civil courts are able to function, nor automatically suspend the privilege of the writ.

The suspension of the privilege of the writ shall apply only to persons judicially charged for rebellion or offenses inherent in or directly connected with invasion.

During the suspension of the privilege of the writ, any person thus arrested or detained shall be judicially charged within three days, otherwise he shall be released.

Sec. 19. Except in cases of impeachment, or as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the President may grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, and remit fines and forfeitures, after conviction by final judgment.

He shall also have the power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress.

Sec. 20. The President may contract or guarantee foreign loans on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines with the prior concurrence of the Monetary Board, and subject to such limitations as may be provided by law. The Monetary Board shall, within thirty days from the end of every quarter of the calendar year, submit to the Congress a complete report of its decisions on applications for loans to be contracted or guaranteed by the Government or government-owned

and controlled corporations which would have the effect of increasing the foreign debt, and containing other matters as may be provided by law.

Sec. 21. No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate.

Sec. 22. The President shall submit to the Congress within thirty days from the opening of every regular session, as the basis of the general appropriations bill, a budget of expenditures and sources of financing, including receipts from existing and proposed revenue measures.

Sec. 23. The President shall address the Congress at the opening of its regular session. He may also appear before it at any other time.

ARTICLE VIII **JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Section 1. The judicial power shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such lower courts as may be established by law.

Judicial power includes the duty of the courts of justice to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government.

Sec. 2. The Congress shall have the power to define, prescribe, and apportion the jurisdiction of the various courts but may not deprive the Supreme Court of its jurisdiction over cases enumerated in Section 5 hereof.

No law shall be passed reorganizing the Judiciary when it undermines the security of tenure of its Members.

Sec. 3. The Judiciary shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. Appropriations for the Judiciary may not be reduced by the legislature below the

amount appropriated for the previous year and, after approval, shall be automatically and regularly released.

Sec. 4. (1) The Supreme Court shall be composed of a Chief Justice and fourteen Associate Justices. It may sit en banc or in its discretion, in divisions of three, five, or seven Members. Any vacancy shall be filled within ninety days from the occurrence thereof.

(2) All cases involving the constitutionality of a treaty, international or executive agreement, or law, which shall be heard by the Supreme Court en banc, and all other cases which under the Rules of Court are required to be heard en banc, including those involving the constitutionality, application, or operation of presidential decrees, proclamations, orders, instructions, ordinances, and other regulations, shall be decided with the concurrence of a majority of the Members who actually took part in the deliberations on the issues in the case and voted thereon.

(3) Cases or matters heard by a division shall be decided or resolved with the concurrence of a majority of the Members who actually took part in the deliberations on the issues in the case and voted thereon, and in no case, without the concurrence of at least three of such Members. When the required number is not obtained, the case shall be decided en banc: Provided, That no doctrine or principle of law laid down by the court in a decision rendered en banc or in division may be modified or reversed except by the court sitting en banc.

Sec. 5. The Supreme Court shall have the following powers:

- (1) Exercise original jurisdiction over cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and over petitions for certiorari, prohibition, mandamus, quo warranto, and habeas corpus.
- (2) Review, revise, reverse, modify, or affirm on appeal or certiorari as the law or the Rules of Court may provide, final judgments and orders of lower courts in:

- (a) All cases in which the constitutionality or validity of any treaty, international or executive agreement, law, presidential decree, proclamation, order, instruction, ordinance, or regulation is in question.
 - (b) All cases involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, or toll, or any penalty imposed in relation thereto.
 - (c) All cases in which the jurisdiction of any lower court is in issue.
 - (d) All criminal cases in which the penalty imposed is reclusion perpetua or higher.
 - (e) All cases in which only an error or question of law is involved.
- (3) Assign temporarily judges of lower courts to other stations as public interest may require. Such temporary assignment shall not exceed six months without the consent of the judge concerned.
 - (4) Order a change of venue or place of trial to avoid a miscarriage of justice.
 - (5) Promulgate rules concerning the protection and enforcement of constitutional rights, pleading, practice, and procedure in all courts, the admission to the practice of law, the Integrated Bar, and legal assistance to the underprivileged. Such rules shall provide a simplified and inexpensive procedure for the speedy disposition of cases, shall be uniform for all courts of the same grade, and shall not diminish, increase, or modify substantive rights. Rules of procedure of special courts and quasi-judicial bodies shall remain effective unless disapproved by the Supreme Court.
 - (6) Appoint all officials and employees of the Judiciary in accordance with the Civil Service Law.

Sec. 6. The Supreme Court shall have administrative supervision over all courts and the personnel thereof.

Sec. 7. (1) No person shall be appointed Member of the Supreme Court or any lower collegiate court unless he is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines. A Member of the Supreme Court must be at least forty years of age, and must have been for fifteen years or more a judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines.

(2) The Congress shall prescribe the qualifications of judges of lower courts, but no person may be appointed judge thereof unless he is a citizen of the Philippines and a member of the Philippine Bar.

(3) A Member of the Judiciary must be a person of proven competence, integrity, probity, and independence.

Sec. 8. (1) A Judicial and Bar Council is hereby created under the supervision of the Supreme Court composed of the Chief Justice as ex officio Chairman, the Secretary of Justice, and a representative of the Congress as ex officio Members, a representative of the Integrated Bar, a professor of law, a retired Member of the Supreme Court, and a representative of the private sector.

(2) The regular members of the Council shall be appointed by the President for a term of four years with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. Of the Members first appointed, the representative of the Integrated Bar shall serve for four years, the professor of law for three years, the retired Justice for two years, and the representative of the private sector for one year.

(3) The Clerk of the Supreme Court shall be the Secretary ex officio of the Council and shall keep a record of its proceedings.

(4) The regular Members of the Council shall receive such emoluments as may be determined by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court shall provide in its annual budget the appropriations for the Council.

(5) The Council shall have the principal function of recommending appointees to the Judiciary. It may exercise such other functions and duties as the Supreme Court may assign to it.

Sec. 9. The Members of the Supreme Court and judges of lower courts shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least three nominees prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council for every vacancy. Such appointments need no confirmation.

For the lower courts, the President shall issue the appointments within ninety days from the submission of the list.

Sec. 10. The salary of the Chief Justice and of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and of judges of lower courts shall be fixed by law. During their continuance in office, their salary shall not be decreased.

Sec. 11. The Members of the Supreme Court and judges of lower courts shall hold office during good behavior until they reach the age of seventy years or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office. The Supreme Court en banc shall have the power to discipline judges of lower courts, or order their dismissal by a vote of a majority of the Members who actually took part in the deliberations on the issues in the case and voted thereon.

Sec. 12. The Members of the Supreme Court and of other courts established by law shall not be designated to any agency performing quasi-judicial or administrative functions.

Sec. 13. The conclusions of the Supreme Court in any case submitted to it for decision en banc or in division shall be reached in consultation before the case is assigned to a Member for the writing of the opinion of the Court. A certification to this effect signed by the Chief Justice shall be issued and a copy thereof attached to the record of the case and served upon the parties. Any Member who took no part, or dissented, or abstained from a decision or resolution must state the reason therefor. The same requirements shall be observed by all lower collegiate courts.

Sec. 14. No decision shall be rendered by any court without expressing therein clearly and distinctly the facts and the law on which it is based.

No petition for review or motion for reconsideration of a decision of the court shall be refused due course or denied without stating the legal basis therefor.

Sec. 15. (1) All cases or matters filed after the effectivity of this Constitution must be decided or resolved within twenty-four months from date of submission for the Supreme Court, and, unless reduced by the Supreme Court, twelve months for all lower collegiate courts, and three months for all other lower courts.

(2) A case or matter shall be deemed submitted for decision or resolution upon the filing of the last pleading, brief, or memorandum required by the Rules of Court or by the court itself.

(3) Upon the expiration of the corresponding period, a certification to this effect signed by the Chief Justice or the presiding judge shall forthwith be issued and a copy thereof attached to the record of the case or matter, and served upon the parties. The certification shall state why a decision or resolution has not been rendered or issued within said period.

(4) Despite the expiration of the applicable mandatory period, the court, without prejudice to such responsibility as may have been incurred in consequence thereof, shall decide or resolve the case or matter submitted thereto for determination, without further delay.

Sec. 16. The Supreme Court shall, within thirty days from the opening of each regular session of the Congress, submit to the President and the Congress an annual report on the operations and activities of the Judiciary.

ARTICLE IX CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS

A. COMMON PROVISIONS

Section 1. The Constitutional Commissions, which shall be independent, are the Civil Service Commission, the Commission on Elections, and the Commission on Audit.

Sec. 2. No Member of a Constitutional Commission shall, during his tenure, hold any other office or employment. Neither shall he engage in the practice of any profession or in the active management or control of any business which in any way may be affected by the functions of his office, nor shall he be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with, or in any franchise or privilege granted by the Government, any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.

Sec. 3. The salary of the Chairman and the Commissioners shall be fixed by law and shall not be decreased during their tenure.

Sec. 4. The Constitutional Commissions shall appoint their officials and employees in accordance with law.

Sec. 5. The Commission shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. Their approved annual appropriations shall be automatically and regularly released.

Sec. 6. Each Commission en banc may promulgate its own rules concerning pleadings and practice before it or before any of its offices. Such rules however shall not diminish, increase, or modify substantive rights.

Sec. 7. Each Commission shall decide by a majority vote of all its Members any case or matter brought before it within sixty days from the date of its submission for decision or resolution. A case or matter is deemed submitted for decision or resolution upon the filing of the last pleading, brief, or memorandum required by the rules of the

Commission or by the Commission itself. Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or by law, any decision, order, or ruling of each Commission may be brought to the Supreme Court on certiorari by the aggrieved party within thirty days from receipt of a copy thereof.

Sec. 8. Each Commission shall perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

B. THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Section 1. (1) The civil service shall be administered by the Civil Service Commission composed of a Chairman and two Commissioners who shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty-five years of age, with proven capacity for public administration, and must not have been candidates for any elective position in the elections immediately preceding their appointment.

(2) The Chairman and the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments for a term of seven years without reappointment. Of those first appointed, the Chairman shall hold office for seven years, a Commissioner for five years, and another Commissioner for three years, without reappointment. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor. In no case shall any Member be appointed or designated in a temporary or acting capacity.

Sec. 2. (1) The civil service embraces all branches, subdivisions, instrumentalities, and agencies of the Government, including government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters.

(2) Appointments in the civil service shall be made only according to merit and fitness to be determined, as far as practicable, and, except to positions which are policy-determining, primarily confidential, or highly technical, by competitive examination.

(3) No officer or employee of the civil service shall be removed or suspended except for cause provided by law.

(4) No officer or employee in the civil service shall engage, directly or indirectly, in any electioneering or partisan political campaign.

(5) The right to self-organization shall not be denied to government employees.

(6) Temporary employees of the Government shall be given such protection as may be provided by law.

Sec. 3. The Civil Service Commission, as the central personnel agency of the Government, shall establish a career service and adopt measures to promote morale, efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy in the civil service. It shall strengthen the merit and rewards system, integrate all human resources development programs for all levels and ranks, and institutionalize a management climate conducive to public accountability. It shall submit to the President and the Congress an annual report on its personnel programs.

Sec. 4. All public officers and employees shall take an oath or affirmation to uphold and defend this Constitution.

Sec. 5. The Congress shall provide for the standardization of compensation of government officials and employees, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, taking into account the nature of the responsibilities pertaining to, and the qualifications required for their positions.

Sec. 6. No candidate who has lost in any election shall, within one year after such election, be appointed to any office in the Government or any government-owned or controlled corporations or in any of their subsidiaries.

Sec. 7. No elective official shall be eligible for appointment or designation in any capacity to any public office or position during his tenure.

Unless otherwise allowed by law or by the primary functions of his position, no appointive official shall hold any other office

or employment in the Government or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.

Sec. 8. No elective or appointive public officer or employee shall receive additional, double, or indirect compensation, unless specifically authorized by law, nor accept without the consent of the Congress, any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind from any foreign government.

Pensions or gratuities shall not be considered as additional, double, or indirect compensation.

C. THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Section 1. (1) There shall be a Commission on Elections composed of a Chairman and six Commissioners who shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty-five years of age, holders of a college degree, and must not have been candidates for any elective position in the immediately preceding elections. However, a majority thereof, including the Chairman, shall be members of the Philippine Bar who have been engaged in the practice of law for at least ten years.

(2) The Chairman and Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments for a term of seven years without reappointment. Of those first appointed, three Members shall hold office for seven years, two Members for five years, and the last Members for three years, without reappointment. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor. In no case shall any Member be appointed or designated in a temporary or acting capacity.

Sec. 2. The Commission on Elections shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- (1) Enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, and recall.

- (2) Exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over all contests relating to the elections, returns, and qualifications of all elective regional, provincial, and city officials, and appellate jurisdiction over all contests involving elective municipal officials decided by trial courts of general jurisdiction, or involving elective barangay officials decided by trial courts of limited jurisdiction.

Decisions, final orders, or rulings of the Commission on election contests involving elective municipal and barangay offices shall be final, executory, and not appealable.

- (3) Decide, except those involving the right to vote, all questions affecting elections, including determination of the number and location of polling places, appointment of election officials and inspectors, and registration of voters.
- (4) Deputize, with the concurrence of the President, law enforcement agencies and instrumentalities of the Government, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the exclusive purpose of ensuring free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible elections.
- (5) Register, after sufficient publication, political parties, organizations, or coalitions which, in addition to other requirements, must present their platform or program of government; and accredit citizens' arms of the Commission on Elections. Religious denominations and sects shall not be registered. Those which seek to achieve their goals through violence or unlawful means, or refuse to uphold and adhere to this Constitution, or which are supported by any foreign government shall likewise be refused registration.

Financial contributions from foreign governments and their agencies to political parties, organizations, coalitions, or candidates related to elections constitute interference in national affairs, and, when accepted, shall be an additional ground for the cancellation of their registration with the

Commission, in addition to other penalties that may be prescribed by law.

- (6) File, upon a verified complaint, or on its own initiative, petitions in court for inclusion or exclusion of voters; investigate and, where appropriate, prosecute cases of violations of election laws, including acts or omissions constituting election frauds, offenses, and malpractices.
- (7) Recommend to the Congress effective measures to minimize election spending, including limitation of places where propaganda materials shall be posted, and to prevent and penalize all forms of election frauds, offenses, malpractices, and nuisance candidacies.
- (8) Recommend to the President the removal of any officer or employee it has deputized, or the imposition of any other disciplinary action, for violation or disregard of, or disobedience to its directive, or decision.
- (9) Submit to the President and the Congress a comprehensive report on the conduct of each election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, or recall.

Sec. 3. The Commission on Elections may sit en banc or in two divisions, and shall promulgate its rules of procedure in order to expedite disposition of election cases, including pre-proclamation controversies. All such election cases shall be heard and decided in division, provided that motions for reconsideration of decisions shall be decided by the Commission en banc.

Sec. 4. The Commission may, during the election period, supervise or regulate the enjoyment or utilization of all franchises or permits for the operation of transportation and other public utilities, media of communication or information, all grants, special privileges, or concessions granted by the Government or any subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including any government-owned or controlled corporation or its subsidiary. Such supervision or

regulation shall aim to ensure equal opportunity, time, and space, and the right to reply, including reasonable, equal rates therefor, for public information campaigns and forums among candidates in connection with the objective of holding free, orderly, honest, peaceful, and credible elections.

Sec. 5. No pardon, amnesty, parole, or suspension of sentence for violation of election laws, rules, and regulations shall be granted by the President without the favorable recommendation of the Commission.

Sec. 6. A free and open party system shall be allowed to evolve according to the free choice of the people, subject to the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 7. No votes cast in favor of a political party, organization, or coalition shall be valid, except for those registered under the party-list system as provided in this Constitution.

Sec. 8. Political parties, or organizations or coalitions registered under the party-list system, shall not be represented in the voters' registration boards, boards of election inspectors, boards of canvassers, or other similar bodies. However, they shall be entitled to appoint poll watchers in accordance with law.

Sec. 9. Unless otherwise fixed by the Commission in special cases, the election period shall commence ninety days before the day of the election and shall end thirty days thereafter.

Sec. 10. Bona fide candidates for any public office shall be free from any form of harassment and discrimination.

Sec. 11. Funds certified by the Commission as necessary to defray the expenses for holding regular and special elections, plebiscites, initiatives, referenda, and recalls, shall be provided in the regular or special appropriations and, once approved, shall be released automatically upon certification by the Chairman of the Commission.

D. THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Section 1. (1) There shall be a Commission on Audit composed of a Chairman and two Commissioners, who shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty-five years of age, certified public accountants with not less than ten years of auditing experience, or members of the Philippine Bar who have been engaged in the practice of law for at least ten years, and must not have been candidates for any elective position in the elections immediately preceding their appointment. At no time shall all Members of the Commission belong to the same profession.

(2) The Chairman and the Commissioners shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments for a term of seven years without reappointment. Of those first appointed, the Chairman shall hold office for seven years, one Commissioner for five years, and the other Commissioner for three years, without reappointment. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the predecessor. In no case shall any Member be appointed or designated in a temporary or acting capacity.

Sec. 2. (1) The Commission on Audit shall have the power, authority, and duty to examine, audit, and settle all accounts pertaining to the revenue and receipts of, and expenditures or uses of funds and property, owned or held in trust by, or pertaining to, the Government, or any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations with original charters, and on a post-audit basis: (a) constitutional bodies, commissions and offices that have been granted fiscal autonomy under this Constitution; (b) autonomous state colleges and universities; (c) other government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries; and (d) such non-governmental entities receiving subsidy or equity, directly or indirectly, from or through the Government, which are required by law or the granting institution to submit to such audit as a condition of subsidy or equity. However, where the internal control system of the audited agencies is inadequate, the Commission may adopt such measures, including temporary or special pre-audit, as are necessary and appropriate to correct the deficiencies. It shall keep the general

accounts of the Government and, for such period as may be provided by law, preserve the vouchers and other supporting papers pertaining thereto.

(2) The Commission shall have exclusive authority, subject to the limitations in this Article, to define the scope of its audit and examination, establish the techniques and methods required therefor, and promulgate accounting and auditing rules and regulations, including those for the prevention and disallowance of irregular, unnecessary, excessive, extravagant, or unconscionable expenditures, or uses of government funds and properties.

Sec. 3. No law shall be passed exempting any entity of the Government or its subsidiary in any guise whatever, or any investment of public funds, from the jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit.

Sec. 4. The Commission shall submit to the President and the Congress, within the time fixed by law, an annual report covering the financial condition and operation of the Government, its subdivisions, agencies, and instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations, and non-governmental entities subject to its audit, and recommend measures necessary to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. It shall submit such other reports as may be required by law.

ARTICLE X LOCAL GOVERNMENT

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The territorial and political subdivisions of the Republic of the Philippines are the provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays. There shall be autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. The territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy local autonomy.

Sec. 3. The Congress shall enact a local government code which shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government

structure instituted through a system of decentralization with effective mechanisms of recall, initiative, and referendum, allocate among the different local government units their powers, responsibilities, and resources, and provide for the qualifications, election, appointment and removal, term, salaries, powers and functions and duties of local officials, and all other matters relating to the organization and operation of the local units.

Sec. 4. The President of the Philippines shall exercise general supervision over local governments. Provinces with respect to component cities and municipalities, and cities and municipalities with respect to component barangays shall ensure that the acts of their component units are within the scope of their prescribed powers and functions.

Sec. 5. Each local government unit shall have the power to create its own sources of revenues and to levy taxes, fees, and charges subject to such guidelines and limitations as the Congress may provide, consistent with the basic policy of local autonomy. Such taxes, fees, and charges shall accrue exclusively to the local governments.

Sec. 6. Local government units shall have a just share, as determined by law, in the national taxes which shall be automatically released to them.

Sec. 7. Local governments shall be entitled to an equitable share in the proceeds of the utilization and development of the national wealth within their respective areas, in the manner provided by law, including sharing the same with the inhabitants by way of direct benefits.

Sec. 8. The term of office of elective local officials, except barangay officials, which shall be determined by law, shall be three years and no such official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.

Sec. 9. Legislative bodies of local governments shall have sectoral representation as may be prescribed by law.

Sec. 10. No province, city, municipality, or barangay may be created, divided, merged, abolished, or its boundary substantially altered, except in accordance with the criteria established in the local government code and subject to approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the political units directly affected.

Sec. 11. The Congress may, by law, create special metropolitan political subdivisions, subject to a plebiscite as set forth in Section 10 hereof. The component cities and municipalities shall retain their basic autonomy and shall be entitled to their own local executives and legislative assemblies. The jurisdiction of the metropolitan authority that will thereby be created shall be limited to basic services requiring coordination.

Sec. 12. Cities that are highly urbanized, as determined by law, and component cities whose charters prohibit their voters from voting for provincial elective officials, shall be independent of the province. The voters of component cities within a province, whose charters contain no such prohibition, shall not be deprived of their right to vote for elective provincial officials.

Sec. 13. Local government units may group themselves, consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them in accordance with law.

Sec. 14. The President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region.

AUTONOMOUS REGIONS

Sec. 15. There shall be created autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras consisting of provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic and social structures, and

other relevant characteristics within the framework of this Constitution and the national sovereignty as well as territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 16. The President shall exercise general supervision over autonomous regions to ensure that laws are faithfully executed.

Sec. 17. All powers, functions, and responsibilities not granted by this Constitution or by law to the autonomous regions shall be vested in the National Government.

Sec. 18. The Congress shall enact an organic act for each autonomous region with the assistance and participation of the regional consultative commission composed of representatives appointed by the President from a list of nominees from multi-sectoral bodies. The organic act shall define the basic structure of government for the region consisting of the executive department and legislative assembly, both of which shall be elective and representative of the constituent political units. The organic acts shall likewise provide for special courts with personal, family, and property law jurisdiction consistent with the provisions of this Constitution and national laws.

The creation of the autonomous region shall be effective when approved by majority of the votes cast by the constituent units in a plebiscite called for the purpose, provided that only provinces, cities, and geographic areas voting favorably in such plebiscite shall be included in the autonomous region.

Sec. 19. The first Congress elected under this Constitution shall, within eighteen months from the time of organization of both Houses, pass the organic acts for the autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras.

Sec. 20. Within its territorial jurisdiction and subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national laws, the organic act of autonomous regions shall provide for legislative powers over:

- (1) Administrative organization;
- (2) Creation of sources of revenues;

- (3) Ancestral domain and natural resources;
- (4) Personal, family, and property relations;
- (5) Regional urban and rural planning development;
- (6) Economic, social, and tourism development;
- (7) Educational policies;
- (8) Preservation and development of the cultural heritage; and
- (9) Such other matters as may be authorized by law for the promotion of the general welfare of the people of the region.

Sec. 21. The preservation of peace and order within the regions shall be the responsibility of the local police agencies which shall be organized, maintained, supervised, and utilized in accordance with applicable laws. The defense and security of the regions shall be the responsibility of the National Government.

ARTICLE XI **ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS**

Section 1. Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.

Sec. 2. The President, the Vice-President, the Members of the Supreme Court, the Members of the Constitutional Commissions, and the Ombudsman may be removed from office, on impeachment for, and conviction of, culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust. All other public officers and employees may be removed from office as provided by law, but not by impeachment.

Sec. 3. (1) The House of Representatives shall have the exclusive power to initiate all cases of impeachment.

(2) A verified complaint for impeachment may be filed by any Member of the House of Representatives or by any citizen upon a resolution of endorsement by any Member thereof, which shall be included in the Order of Business within ten session days, and referred to the proper Committee within three session days thereafter. The

Committee, after hearing, and by a majority vote of all its Members, shall submit its report to the House within sixty session days from such referral, together with the corresponding resolution. The resolution shall be calendared for consideration by the House within ten session days from receipt thereof.

(3) A vote of at least one-third of all the Members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the Committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each Member shall be recorded.

(4) In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the Members of the House, the same shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed.

(5) No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year.

(6) The Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment. When sitting for that purpose, the Senators shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the Philippines is on trial, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside, but shall not vote. No person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate.

(7) Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold any office under the Republic of the Philippines, but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to prosecution, trial, and punishment according to law.

(8) The Congress shall promulgate its rules on impeachment to effectively carry out the purpose of this section.

Sec. 4. The present anti-graft court known as the Sandiganbayan shall continue to function and exercise its jurisdiction as now or hereafter may be provided by law.

Sec. 5. There is hereby created the independent Office of the Ombudsman, composed of the Ombudsman to be known as Tanodbayan, one overall Deputy and at least one Deputy each for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. A separate Deputy for the military establishment may likewise be appointed.

Sec. 6. The officials and employees of the Office of the Ombudsman, other than the Deputies, shall be appointed by the Ombudsman according to the Civil Service Law.

Sec. 7. The existing Tanodbayan shall hereafter be known as the Office of the Special Prosecutor. It shall continue to function and exercise its powers as now or hereafter may be provided by law, except those conferred on the Office of the Ombudsman created under this Constitution.

Sec. 8. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines, and at the time of their appointment, at least forty years old, of recognized probity and independence, and members of the Philippine Bar, and must not have been candidates for any elective office in the immediately preceding election. The Ombudsman must have for ten years or more been a judge or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines.

During their tenure, they shall be subject to the same disqualifications and prohibitions as provided for in Section 2 of Article IX-A of this Constitution.

Sec. 9. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least six nominees prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council, and from a list of three nominees for every vacancy thereafter. Such appointments shall require no confirmation. All vacancies shall be filled within three months after they occur.

Sec. 10. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall have the rank of Chairman and Members, respectively, of the Constitutional Commissions, and they shall receive the same salary, which shall not be decreased during their term of office.

Sec. 11. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall serve for a term of seven years without reappointment. They shall not be qualified to run for any office in the election immediately succeeding their cessation from office.

Sec. 12. The Ombudsman and his Deputies, as protectors of the people, shall act promptly on complaints filed in any form or manner against public officials or employees of the Government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, including government-owned or controlled corporations, and shall, in appropriate cases, notify the complainants of the action taken and the result thereof.

Sec. 13. The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the following powers, functions, and duties:

- (1) Investigate on its own, or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient.
- (2) Direct, upon complaint or at its own instance, any public official or employee of the Government, or any subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof, as well as of any government-owned or controlled corporation with original charter, to perform and expedite any act or duty required by law, or to stop, prevent, and correct any abuse or impropriety in the performance of duties.
- (3) Direct the officer concerned to take appropriate action against a public official or employee at fault, and recommend his removal, suspension, demotion, fine, censure, or prosecution, and ensure compliance therewith.
- (4) Direct the officer concerned, in any appropriate case, and subject to such limitations as may be provided by law, to furnish it with copies of documents relating to contracts or transactions entered into by his office involving the disbursement or use of public funds or properties, and report any irregularity to the Commission on Audit for appropriate action.

- (5) Request any government agency for assistance and information necessary in the discharge of its responsibilities, and to examine, if necessary, pertinent records and documents.
- (6) Publicize matters covered by its investigation when circumstances so warrant and with due prudence.
- (7) Determine the causes of inefficiency, red tape, mismanagement, fraud, and corruption in the Government and make recommendations for their elimination and the observance of high standards of ethics and efficiency.
- (8) Promulgate its rules of procedure and exercise such other powers or perform such functions or duties as may be provided by law.

Sec. 14. The Office of the Ombudsman shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. Its approved annual appropriations shall be automatically and regularly released.

Sec. 15. The right of the State to recover properties unlawfully acquired by public officials or employees, from them or from their nominees or transferees, shall not be barred by prescription, laches, or estoppel.

Sec. 16. No loan, guaranty, or other form of financial accommodation for any business purpose may be granted, directly or indirectly, by any government-owned or controlled bank or financial institution to the President, the Vice-President, the Members of the Cabinet, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Commissions, the Ombudsman, or to any firm or entity in which they have controlling interest, during their tenure.

Sec. 17. A public officer or employee shall, upon assumption of office and as often thereafter as may be required by law, submit a declaration under oath of his assets, liabilities, and net worth. In the case of the President, the Vice-President, the Members of the Cabinet, the Congress, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Commissions

and other constitutional offices, and officers of the armed forces with general or flag rank, the declaration shall be disclosed to the public in the manner provided by law.

Sec. 18. Public officers and employees owe the State and this Constitution allegiance at all times, and any public officer or employee who seeks to change his citizenship or acquire the status of an immigrant of another country during his tenure shall be dealt with by law.

ARTICLE XII **NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY**

Section 1. The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.

The State shall promote industrialization and full employment based on sound agricultural development and agrarian reform, through industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and which are competitive in both domestic and foreign markets. However, the State shall protect Filipino enterprises against unfair foreign competition and trade practices.

In the pursuit of these goals, all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country shall be given optimum opportunity to develop. Private enterprises, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall be encouraged to broaden the base of their ownership.

Sec. 2. All lands of the public domain, waters, minerals, coal, petroleum, and other mineral oils, all forces of potential energy, fisheries, forests or timber, wildlife, flora and fauna, and other natural resources are owned by the State. With the exception of agricultural lands, all other natural resources shall not be alienated. The exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State. The State may directly undertake

such activities, or it may enter into co-production, joint venture, or production-sharing agreements with Filipino citizens, or corporations or associations at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens. Such agreements may be for a period not exceeding twenty-five years, renewable for not more than twenty-five years, and under such terms and conditions as may be provided by law. In cases of water rights for irrigation, water supply, fisheries, or industrial uses other than the development of water power, beneficial use may be the measure and limit of the grant.

The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens.

The Congress may, by law, allow small-scale utilization of natural resources by Filipino citizens, as well as cooperative fish farming, with priority to subsistence fishermen and fishworkers in rivers, lakes, bays, and lagoons.

The President may enter into agreements with foreign-owned corporations involving either technical or financial assistance for large-scale exploration, development, and utilization of minerals, petroleum, and other mineral oils according to the general terms and conditions provided by law, based on real contributions to the economic growth and general welfare of the country. In such agreements, the State shall promote the development and use of local scientific and technical resources.

The President shall notify the Congress of every contract entered into in accordance with this provision, within thirty days from its execution.

Sec. 3. Lands of the public domain are classified into agricultural, forest or timber, mineral lands, and national parks. Agricultural lands of the public domain may be further classified by law according to the uses to which they may be devoted. Alienable lands of the public domain shall be limited to agricultural lands. Private corporations or associations may not hold such alienable lands of the public domain except by lease, for a period not exceeding twenty-five years,

renewable for not more than twenty-five years, and not to exceed one thousand hectares in area. Citizens of the Philippines may lease not more than five hundred hectares, or acquire not more than twelve hectares thereof by purchase, homestead, or grant.

Taking into account the requirements of conservation, ecology, and development, and subject to the requirements of agrarian reform, the Congress shall determine, by law, the size of lands of the public domain which may be acquired, developed, held, or leased and the conditions therefor.

Sec. 4. The Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine by law the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground. Thereafter, such forest lands and national parks shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished, except by law. The Congress shall provide, for such period as it may determine, measures to prohibit logging in endangered forests and watershed areas.

Sec. 5. The State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.

The Congress may provide for the applicability of customary laws governing property rights or relations in determining the ownership and extent of ancestral domain.

Sec. 6. The use of property bears a social function, and all economic agents shall contribute to the common good. Individuals and private groups, including corporations, cooperatives, and similar collective organizations, shall have the right to own, establish, and operate economic enterprises, subject to the duty of the State to promote distributive justice and to intervene when the common good so demands.

Sec. 7. Save in cases of hereditary succession, no private lands shall be transferred or conveyed except to individuals, corporations, or associations qualified to acquire or hold lands of the public domain.

Sec. 8. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7 of this Article, a natural-born citizen of the Philippines who has lost his Philippine citizenship may be a transferee of private lands, subject to limitations provided by law.

Sec. 9. The Congress may establish an independent economic and planning agency headed by the President, which shall, after consultations with the appropriate public agencies, various private sectors, and local government units, recommend to Congress, and implement continuing integrated and coordinated programs and policies for national development.

Until the Congress provides otherwise, the National Economic and Development Authority shall function as the independent planning agency of the government.

Sec. 10. The Congress shall, upon recommendation of the economic and planning agency, when the national interest dictates, reserve to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations or associations at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens, or such higher percentage as Congress may prescribe, certain areas of investments. The Congress shall enact measures that will encourage the formation and operation of enterprises whose capital is wholly owned by Filipinos.

In the grant of rights, privileges, and concessions covering the national economy and patrimony, the State shall give preference to qualified Filipinos.

The State shall regulate and exercise authority over foreign investments within its national jurisdiction and in accordance with its national goals and priorities.

Sec. 11. No franchise, certificate, or any other form of authorization for the operation of a public utility shall be granted except to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations or associations organized under the laws of the Philippines at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens, nor shall such franchise,

certificate, or authorization be exclusive in character or for a longer period than fifty years. Neither shall any such franchise or right be granted except under the condition that it shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by the Congress when the common good so requires. The State shall encourage equity participation in public utilities by the general public. The participation of foreign investors in the governing body of any public utility enterprise shall be limited to their proportionate share in its capital, and all the executive and managing officers of such corporation or association must be citizens of the Philippines.

Sec. 12. The State shall promote the preferential use of Filipino labor, domestic materials and locally produced goods, and adopt measures that help make them competitive.

Sec. 13. The State shall pursue a trade policy that serves the general welfare and utilizes all forms and arrangements of exchange on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Sec. 14. The sustained development of a reservoir of national talents consisting of Filipino scientists, entrepreneurs, professionals, managers, high-level technical manpower and skilled workers and craftsmen in all fields shall be promoted by the State. The State shall encourage appropriate technology and regulate its transfer for the national benefit.

The practice of all professions in the Philippines shall be limited to Filipino citizens, save in cases prescribed by law.

Sec. 15. The Congress shall create an agency to promote the viability and growth of cooperatives as instruments for social justice and economic development.

Sec. 16. The Congress shall not, except by general law, provide for the formation, organization, or regulation of private corporations. Government-owned or controlled corporations may be created or established by special charters in the interest of the common good and subject to the test of economic viability.

Sec. 17. In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest.

Sec. 18. The State may, in the interest of national welfare or defense, establish and operate vital industries and, upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other private enterprises to be operated by the Government.

Sec. 19. The State shall regulate or prohibit monopolies when the public interest so requires. No combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition shall be allowed.

Sec. 20. The Congress shall establish an independent central monetary authority, the members of whose governing board must be natural-born Filipino citizens, of known probity, integrity, and patriotism, the majority of whom shall come from the private sector. They shall also be subject to such other qualifications and disabilities as may be prescribed by law. The authority shall provide policy direction in the areas of money, banking, and credit. It shall have supervision over the operations of banks and exercise such regulatory powers as may be provided by law over the operations of finance companies and other institutions performing similar functions.

Until the Congress otherwise provides, the Central Bank of the Philippines, operating under existing laws, shall function as the central monetary authority.

Sec. 21. Foreign loans may only be incurred in accordance with law and the regulation of the monetary authority. Information on foreign loans obtained or guaranteed by the Government shall be made available to the public.

Sec. 22. Acts which circumvent or negate any of the provisions of this Article shall be considered inimical to the national interest and subject to criminal and civil sanctions, as may be provided by law.

ARTICLE XIII
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1. The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic, and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good.

To this end, the State shall regulate the acquisition, ownership, use, and disposition of property and its increments.

Sec. 2. The promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

LABOR

Sec. 3. The State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.

It shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law. They shall be entitled to security of tenure, humane conditions of work, and a living wage. They shall also participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits as may be provided by law.

The State shall promote the principle of shared responsibility between workers and employers and the preferential use of voluntary modes in settling disputes, including conciliation, and shall enforce their mutual compliance therewith to foster industrial peace.

The State shall regulate the relations between workers and employers, recognizing the right of labor to its just share in the fruits of production and the right of enterprises to reasonable returns of investments, and to expansion and growth.

AGRARIAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES REFORM

Sec. 4. The State shall, by law, undertake an agrarian reform program founded on the right of farmers and regular farmworkers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till or, in the case of other farmworkers, to receive a just share of the fruits thereof. To this end, the State shall encourage and undertake the just distribution of all agricultural lands, subject to such priorities and reasonable retention limits as the Congress may prescribe, taking into account ecological, developmental, or equity considerations, and subject to the payment of just compensation. In determining retention limits, the State shall respect the right of small landowners. The State shall further provide incentives for voluntary land-sharing.

Sec. 5. The State shall recognize the right of farmers, farmworkers, and landowners, as well as cooperatives, and other independent farmers' organizations to participate in the planning, organization, and management of the program, and shall provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.

Sec. 6. The State shall apply the principles of agrarian reform or stewardship, whenever applicable in accordance with law, in the disposition or utilization of other natural resources, including lands of the public domain under lease or concession suitable to agriculture, subject to prior rights, homestead rights of small settlers, and the rights of indigenous communities to their ancestral lands.

The State may resettle landless farmers and farmworkers in its own agricultural estates which shall be distributed to them in the manner provided by law.

Sec. 7. The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds

of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fishworkers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources.

Sec. 8. The State shall provide incentives to landowners to invest the proceeds of the agrarian reform program to promote industrialization, employment creation, and privatization of public sector enterprises. Financial instruments used as payment for their lands shall be honored as equity in enterprises of their choice.

URBAN LAND REFORM AND HOUSING

Sec. 9. The State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. It shall also promote adequate employment opportunities to such citizens. In the implementation of such program the State shall respect the rights of small property owners.

Sec. 10. Urban or rural poor dwellers shall not be evicted nor their dwellings demolished, except in accordance with law and in a just and humane manner.

No resettlement of urban or rural dwellers shall be undertaken without adequate consultation with them and the communities where they are to be relocated.

HEALTH

Sec. 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Sec. 12. The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health

manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

Sec. 13. The State shall establish a special agency for disabled persons for their rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance, and their integration into the mainstream of society.

WOMEN

Sec. 14. The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation.

ROLE AND RIGHTS OF PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS

Sec. 15. The State shall respect the role of independent people's organizations to enable the people to pursue and protect, within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means.

People's organizations are bona fide association of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure.

Sec. 16. The right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sec. 17. (1) There is hereby created an independent office called the Commission on Human Rights.

(2) The Commission shall be composed of a Chairman and four Members who must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and a

majority of whom shall be members of the Bar. The term of office and other qualifications and disabilities of the Members of the Commission shall be provided by law.

(3) Until this Commission is constituted, the existing Presidential Committee on Human Rights shall continue to exercise its present functions and powers.

(4) The approved annual appropriations of the Commission shall be automatically and regularly released.

Sec. 18. The Commission on Human Rights shall have the following powers and functions:

(1) Investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights;

(2) Adopt its operational guidelines and rules of procedure, and cite for contempt for violations thereof in accordance with the Rules of Court;

(3) Provide appropriate legal measures for the protection of human rights of all persons within the Philippines, as well as Filipinos residing abroad, and provide for preventive measures and legal aid services to the underprivileged whose human rights have been violated or need protection;

(4) Exercise visitatorial powers over jails, prisons, or detention facilities;

(5) Establish a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights;

(6) Recommend to the Congress effective measures to promote human rights and to provide for compensation to victims of violations of human rights, or their families;

(7) Monitor the Philippine Government's compliance with international treaty obligations on human rights;

(8) Grant immunity from prosecution to any person whose testimony or whose possession of documents or other evidence is necessary or convenient to determine the truth in any investigation conducted by it or under its authority;

(9) Request the assistance of any department, bureau, office, or agency in the performance of its functions;

(10) Appoint its officers and employees in accordance with law; and

(11) Perform such other duties and functions as may be provided by law.

Sec. 19. The Congress may provide for other cases of violations of human rights that should fall within the authority of the Commission, taking into account its recommendations.

ARTICLE XIV
**EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ARTS, CULTURE, AND SPORTS**

EDUCATION

Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Sec. 2. The State shall:

(1) Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

(2) Establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels. Without limiting the natural right of parents to rear their children, elementary education is compulsory for all children of school age;

(3) Establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged;

(4) Encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs; and

(5) Provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

Sec. 3. (1) All educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula.

(2) They shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency.

(3) At the option expressed in writing by the parents or guardians, religion shall be allowed to be taught to their children or wards in public elementary and high schools within the regular class hours by instructors designated or approved by the religious authorities of the religion to which the children or wards belong, without additional cost to the Government.

Sec. 4. (1) The State recognizes the complementary roles of public and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions.

(2) Educational institutions, other than those established by religious groups and mission boards, shall be owned solely by citizens of the Philippines or corporations or associations at least sixty per centum of the capital of which is owned by such citizens. The Congress

may, however, require increased Filipino equity participation in all educational institutions.

The control and administration of educational institutions shall be vested in citizens of the Philippines.

No educational institution shall be established exclusively for aliens and no group of aliens shall comprise more than one-third of the enrollment in any school. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to schools established for foreign diplomatic personnel and their dependents and, unless otherwise provided by law, for other foreign temporary residents.

(3) All revenues and assets of non-stock, non-profit educational institutions used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from taxes and duties. Upon the dissolution or cessation of the corporate existence of such institutions, their assets shall be disposed of in the manner provided by law.

Proprietary educational institutions, including those cooperatively owned, may likewise be entitled to such exemptions subject to the limitations provided by law including restrictions on dividends and provisions for reinvestment.

(4) Subject to conditions prescribed by law, all grants, endowments, donations, or contributions used actually, directly, and exclusively for educational purposes shall be exempt from tax.

Sec. 5. (1) The State shall take into account regional and sectoral needs and conditions and shall encourage local planning in the development of educational policies and programs.

(2) Academic freedom shall be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning.

(3) Every citizen has a right to select a profession or course of study, subject to fair, reasonable, and equitable admission and academic requirements.

(4) The State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancements. Non-teaching academic and non-academic personnel shall enjoy the protection of the State.

(5) The State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

LANGUAGE

Sec. 6. The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages.

Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system.

Sec. 7. For purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English.

The regional languages are the auxiliary official languages in the regions and shall serve as auxiliary media of instruction therein.

Spanish and Arabic shall be promoted on a voluntary and optional basis.

Sec. 8. This Constitution shall be promulgated in Filipino and English and shall be translated into major regional languages, Arabic, and Spanish.

Sec. 9. The Congress shall establish a national language commission composed of representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate, and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other languages.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 10. Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate, and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life.

Sec. 11. The Congress may provide for incentives, including tax deductions, to encourage private participation in programs of basic and applied scientific research. Scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other forms of incentives shall be provided to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, inventors, technologists, and specially gifted citizens.

Sec. 12. The State shall regulate the transfer and promote the adaptation of technology from all sources for the national benefit. It shall encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology.

Sec. 13. The State shall protect and secure the exclusive rights of scientists, inventors, artists, and other gifted citizens to their intellectual property and creations, particularly when beneficial to the people, for such period as may be provided by law.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Sec. 14. The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

Sec. 15. Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.

Sec. 16. All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition.

Sec. 17. The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies.

Sec. 18. (1) The State shall ensure equal access to cultural opportunities through the educational system, public or private cultural entities, scholarships, grants and other incentives, and community cultural centers, and other public venues.

(2) The State shall encourage and support researches and studies on the arts and culture.

SPORTS

Sec. 19. (1) The State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry.

(2) All educational institutions shall undertake regular sports activities throughout the country in cooperation with athletic clubs and other sectors.

ARTICLE XV THE FAMILY

Section 1. The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.

Sec. 2. Marriage, as an inviolable social institution, is the foundation of the family and shall be protected by the State.

Sec. 3. The State shall defend:

(1) The right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood;

(2) The right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development;

(3) The right of the family to a family living wage and income; and

(4) The right of families or family associations to participate in the planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them.

Sec. 4. The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

ARTICLE XVI
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The flag of the Philippines shall be red, white, and blue, with a sun and three stars, as consecrated and honored by the people and recognized by law.

Sec. 2. The Congress may, by law, adopt a new name for the country, a national anthem, or a national seal, which shall all be truly reflective and symbolic of the ideals, history, and traditions of the people. Such law shall take effect only upon its ratification by the people in a national referendum.

Sec. 3. The State may not be sued without its consent.

Sec. 4. The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be composed of a citizen armed force which shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law. It shall keep a regular force necessary for the security of the State.

Sec. 5. (1) All members of the armed forces shall take an oath or affirmation to uphold and defend this Constitution.

(2) The State shall strengthen the patriotic spirit and nationalist consciousness of the military, and respect for people's rights in the performance of their duty.

(3) Professionalism in the armed forces and adequate remuneration and benefits of its members shall be a prime concern of the State. The armed forces shall be insulated from partisan politics.

No member of the military shall engage directly or indirectly in any partisan political activity, except to vote.

(4) No member of the armed forces in the active service shall, at any time, be appointed or designated in any capacity to a civilian position in the Government including government-owned or controlled corporations or any of their subsidiaries.

(5) Laws on retirement of military officers shall not allow extension of their service.

(6) The officers and men of the regular force of the armed forces shall be recruited proportionately from all provinces and cities as far as practicable.

(7) The tour of duty of the Chief of Staff of the armed forces shall not exceed three years. However, in times of war or other national emergency declared by the Congress, the President may extend such tour of duty.

Sec. 6. The State shall establish and maintain one police force, which shall be national in scope and civilian in character, to be administered and controlled by a national police commission. The authority of local executives over the police units in their jurisdiction shall be provided by law.

Sec. 7. The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans

of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor and due consideration shall be given them in the disposition of agricultural lands of the public domain and, in appropriate cases, in the utilization of natural resources.

Sec. 8. The State shall, from time to time, review to upgrade the pensions and other benefits due to retirees of both the government and the private sectors.

Sec. 9. The State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products.

Sec. 10. The State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country, in accordance with a policy that respects the freedom of speech and of the press.

Sec. 11. (1) The ownership and management of mass media shall be limited to citizens of the Philippines, or to corporations, cooperatives or associations, wholly-owned and managed by such citizens.

The Congress shall regulate or prohibit monopolies in commercial mass media when the public interest so requires. No combinations in restraint of trade or unfair competition therein shall be allowed.

(2) The advertising industry is impressed with public interest, and shall be regulated by law for the protection of consumers and the promotion of the general welfare.

Only Filipino citizens or corporations or associations at least seventy per centum of the capital of which is owned by such citizens shall be allowed to engage in the advertising industry.

The participation of foreign investors in the governing body of entities in such industry shall be limited to their proportionate share in the capital thereof, and all the executive and managing officers of such entities must be citizens of the Philippines.

Sec. 12. The Congress may create a consultative body to advise the President on policies affecting indigenous cultural communities, the majority of the members of which shall come from such communities.

ARTICLE XVII **AMENDMENTS OR REVISIONS**

Section 1. Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by:

- (1) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members;
or
- (2) A constitutional convention.

Sec. 2. Amendments to this Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered votes therein. No amendment under this section shall be authorized within five years following the ratification of this Constitution nor oftener than once every five years thereafter.

The Congress shall provide for the implementation of the exercise of this right.

Sec. 3. The Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, call a constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention.

Sec. 4. Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution under Section 1 hereof shall be valid when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite which shall be held not earlier than sixty days nor later than ninety days after the approval of such amendment or revision.

Any amendment under Section 2 hereof shall be valid when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite which shall be held not earlier than sixty days nor later than ninety days after the

certification by the Commission on Elections of the sufficiency of the petition.

ARTICLE XVIII **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

Section 1. The first elections of Members of the Congress under this Constitution shall be held on the second Monday of May, 1987.

The first local elections shall be held on a date to be determined by the President, which may be simultaneous with the election of the Members of the Congress. It shall include the election of all Members of the city or municipal councils in the Metropolitan Manila area.

Sec. 2. The Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, and the local officials first elected under this Constitution shall serve until noon of June 30, 1992.

Of the Senators elected in the election in 1992, the first twelve obtaining the highest number of votes shall serve for six years and the remaining twelve for three years.

Sec. 3. All existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instructions, and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative until amended, repealed, or revoked.

Sec. 4. All existing treaties or international agreements which have not been ratified shall not be renewed or extended without the concurrence of at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate.

Sec. 5. The six-year term of the incumbent President and Vice-President elected in the February 7, 1986 election is, for purposes of synchronization of elections, hereby extended to noon of June 30, 1992.

The first regular elections for the President and Vice-President under this Constitution shall be held on the second Monday of May, 1992.

Sec. 6. The incumbent President shall continue to exercise legislative powers until the first Congress is convened.

Sec. 7. Until a law is passed, the President may fill up by appointment from a list of nominees by the respective sectors the seats reserved for sectoral representation in paragraph (2), Section 5 of Article VI of this Constitution.

Sec. 8. Until otherwise provided by the Congress, the President may constitute the Metropolitan Authority to be composed of the heads of all local government units comprising the Metropolitan Manila area.

Sec. 9. A sub-province shall continue to exist and operate until it is converted into a regular province or until its component municipalities are reverted to the mother province.

Sec. 10. All courts existing at the time of the ratification of this Constitution shall continue to exercise their jurisdiction, until otherwise provided by law. The provisions of the existing Rules of Court, judiciary acts, and procedural laws not inconsistent with this Constitution shall remain operative unless amended or repealed by the Supreme Court or the Congress.

Sec. 11. The incumbent Members of the Judiciary shall continue in office until they reach the age of seventy years or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office or are removed for cause.

Sec. 12. The Supreme Court shall, within one year after the ratification of this Constitution, adopt a systematic plan to expedite the decision or resolution of cases or matters pending in the Supreme Court or the lower courts prior to the effectivity of this Constitution. A similar plan shall be adopted for all special courts and quasi-judicial bodies.

Sec. 13. The legal effect of the lapse, before the ratification of this Constitution, of the applicable period for the decision or resolution

of the cases or matters submitted for adjudication by the courts, shall be determined by the Supreme Court as soon as practicable.

Sec. 14. The provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4), Section 15 of Article VIII of this Constitution shall apply to cases or matters filed before the ratification of this Constitution, when the applicable period lapses after such ratification.

Sec. 15. The incumbent Members of the Civil Service Commission, the Commission on Elections, and the Commission on Audit shall continue in office for one year after the ratification of this Constitution, unless they are sooner removed for cause or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office or appointed to a new term thereunder. In no case shall any Member serve longer than seven years including service before the ratification of this Constitution.

Sec. 16. Career civil service employees separated from the service not for cause but as a result of the reorganization pursuant to Proclamation No. 3 dated March 25, 1986 and the reorganization following the ratification of this Constitution shall be entitled to appropriate separation pay and to retirement and other benefits accruing to them under the laws of general application in force at the time of their separation. In lieu thereof, at the option of the employees, they may be considered for employment in the Government or in any of its subdivisions, instrumentalities, or agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries. This provision also applies to career officers whose resignation, tendered in line with the existing policy, had been accepted.

Sec. 17. Until the Congress provides otherwise, the President shall receive an annual salary of three hundred thousand pesos; the Vice-President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, two hundred forty thousand pesos each; the Senators, the Members of the House of Representatives, the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Chairmen of the Constitutional Commissions, two hundred four thousand pesos each; and the Members of the Constitutional Commissions, one hundred eighty thousand pesos each.

Sec. 18. At the earliest possible time, the Government shall increase the salary scales of the other officials and employees of the National Government.

Sec. 19. All properties, records, equipment, buildings, facilities, and other assets of any office or body abolished or reorganized under Proclamation No. 3 dated March 25, 1986 or this Constitution shall be transferred to the office or body to which its powers, functions, and responsibilities substantially pertain.

Sec. 20. The first congress shall give priority to the determination of the period for the full implementation of free public secondary education.

Sec. 21. The Congress shall provide efficacious procedures and adequate remedies for the reversion to the State of all lands of the public domain and real rights connected therewith which were acquired in violation of the Constitution or the public land laws, or through corrupt practices. No transfer or disposition of such lands or real rights shall be allowed until after the lapse of one year from the ratification of this Constitution.

Sec. 22. At the earliest possible time, the Government shall expropriate idle or abandoned agricultural lands as may be defined by law, for distribution to the beneficiaries of the agrarian reform program.

Sec. 23. Advertising entities affected by paragraph (2), Section 11 of Article XVI of this Constitution shall have five years from its ratification to comply on a graduated and proportionate basis with the minimum Filipino ownership requirement therein.

Sec. 24. Private armies and other armed groups not recognized by duly constituted authority shall be dismantled. All paramilitary forces including Civilian Home Defense Forces not consistent with the citizen armed force established in this Constitution, shall be dissolved or, where appropriate, converted into the regular force.

Sec. 25. After the expiration in 1991 of the Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America concerning Military Bases, foreign military bases, troops, or facilities shall not be allowed in the Philippines except under a treaty duly concurred in by the Senate and, when the Congress so requires, ratified by a majority of the votes cast by the people in a national referendum held for that purpose, and recognized as a treaty by the other contracting State.

Sec. 26. The authority to issue sequestration or freeze orders under Proclamation No. 3 dated March 25, 1986 in relation to the recovery of ill-gotten wealth shall remain operative for not more than eighteen months after the ratification of this Constitution. However, in the national interest, as certified by the President, the Congress may extend said period.

A sequestration or freeze order shall be issued only upon showing of a prima facie case. The order and the list of the sequestered or frozen properties shall forthwith be registered with the proper court. For orders issued before the ratification of this Constitution, the corresponding judicial action or proceeding shall be filed within six months from its ratification. For those issued after such ratification, the judicial action or proceeding shall be commenced within six months from the issuance thereof.

The sequestration or freeze order is deemed automatically lifted if no judicial action or proceeding is commenced as herein provided.

Sec. 27. This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its ratification by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite held for the purpose and shall supersede all previous Constitution.

Adopted,

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ORDINANCE

APPORTIONING THE SEATS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN PROVINCES AND CITIES AND THE METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA

Section 1. For purposes of the election of Members of the House of Representatives of the First Congress of the Philippines under the Constitution proposed by the 1986 Constitutional Commission and subsequent elections, and until otherwise provided by law, the Members thereof shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities, and the Metropolitan Manila Area as follows:

METROPOLITAN MANILA AREA

MANILA, six (6) – First District: Barangays Nos. 1-146, N – City Boundary between Manila and Caloocan; E – From Estero de Sunog Apog going South to Estero de Vitas up to the bridge spanning Juan Luna Street, eastward to Tayuman Street up to the Railroad Tracks along Dagupan Street, thence southward to Claro M. Recto Avenue; SE – From point Claro M. Recto Avenue extending westward to Manila Bay; W – Manila Bay northward to City boundary between Manila and Caloocan. Second District: Barangays Nos. 147-267, N – City boundary between Manila and Caloocan; E – From end of Rizal Avenue Extension extending southward to Railroad Tracks at Antipolo Street; from corner Antipolo Street and Rizal Avenue on southern side of Railroad Tracks extending westward to Estero de San Lazaro, southward along Estero de San Lazaro up to corner of C. M. Recto Avenue in the south; S – Claro M. Recto Avenue westward to bridge spanning Claro M. Recto at Estero de la Reina; W – Estero de la Reina to Estero de Vitas to Estero Sunog Apog to City boundary between Manila and Caloocan; Third District: Barangays Nos. 268-394, N – City boundary between Manila and Caloocan; E – A. Bonifacio Street extending southward to Dimasalang, to Andalucia, Claro M. Recto Avenue eastward to Estero de San Miguel ending at Pasig River; S – Mouth of Estero de San Miguel at Pasig River, westward to Del Pan Bridge, thence to Del Pan Street;

W – Del Pan Street northward up to Claro M. Recto Extension to Estero de San Lazaro, northward to Antipolo Street, eastward to Rizal Avenue Extension, northward to boundary between Manila and Caloocan; Fourth District: Barangays Nos. 395 – 86, SW – Estero de San Miguel up to Mendiola Bridge, thence to C. M. Recto Avenue to Quezon Boulevard; W – Quezon Boulevard, Andalucia, Dimasalang up to boundary between Manila and Quezon City; NE – City boundary between Manila and Quezon City up to Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard; SE – Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard up to V. Mapa Street; S – Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard up to point Estero de San Miguel where Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard spans Estero de San Miguel; Fifth District: Barangays Nos. 649-828, N – Mouth of Pasig River inland to point Paz M. Guanzon Street extending to Estero de Pandacan; NE – Estero de Pandacan up to Pedro Gil Street to Tejeron Street up to boundary of Manila and Makati; SE – City boundary between Manila and Makati up to Estero de Tripa de Gallina; S – City boundary between Pasay and Manila down to Roxas Boulevard up to edge of reclaimed areas westward to Manila Bay; W – Manila Bay up to mouth of Pasig River; Sixth District: Barangays Nos. 587-648; and 829-905, N – Starting from point which is mouth of Estero de San Miguel going eastward to Mendiola Bridge, following line along Estero de San Miguel up to point where Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard spans Estero de San Miguel, thence Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard eastward to City boundary between Manila and Quezon City; NE – City boundary up to point city boundary of Manila, San Juan and Quezon City; E – Manila – San Juan – Mandaluyong – Makati boundaries up to Tejeron Street; SE – Tejeron Street to Pedro Gil Street up to bridge spanning Estero de Pandacan; SW & W – Estero de Pandacan going northward to Paz M. Guanzon Street, then northward on Paz M. Guanzon Street up to Pasig River to mouth of Estero de San Miguel on Pasig River.

QUEZON CITY, four (4) – First District: Barangays Del Monte, Paltok, Bungad, San Antonio, Katipunan, Veterans Village, Talayan, Damayan, Mariblo, Paraiso, Sta. Cruz, Nayong Kanluran, Philam, West Triangle, N.S. Amoranto, Paang Bundok, San Isidro Labrador, Sta. Teresita, Salvacion, Maharlika, St. Peter, Lourdes, Sto. Domingo, Sienna, San Jose, Manresa, Pag-ibig sa Nayon, Balingasa, Masambong, Damar, Bahay Toro, Sto. Cristo, Ramon Magsaysay, Project 6, Vasra, Alicia,

and Bagong Pag-asa; Second District: Barangays Fairview, New Era, Holy Spirit, Batasan Hills, Commonwealth, Payatas, Bagong Silangan, Sauyo, Talipapa, Bagbag, San Bartolome, Sta. Lucia, Gulod, Novaliches Proper, San Agustin, Nagkaisang Nayon, Sta. Monica, Kaligayahan, Pasong Putik, Apolonio Samson, Unang Sigaw, Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo, Culiatt, Baesa, Capri, Balumbato, and Sangandaan; Third District: Barangays E. Rodriguez, Silangan, Quirino 3-A, Duyan-Duyan, Quirino 3-B, Amihan, Socorro, San Roque, Manga, Zobel Dioquino, Tagumpay, Aguinaldo, White Plains, St. Ignatius, Blue Ridge A, Blue Ridge B, Bayanihan, Escopa 1, Escopa 2, Escopa 3, Escopa 4, West Kamias, East Kamias, Quirino 2-A, Quirino 2-B, Quirino 2-C, Ugong Norte, Bagumbayan, Libis, Villa Maria Clara, Masagana, Milagrosa, Marilag, Bagumbuhay, Loyola Heights, Pansol, and Matandang Balara; Fourth District: Barangays Bagong Lipunan, Kaunlaran, San Martin, Immaculate Concepcion, South Triangle, Sacred Heart, Laging Handa, Paligsahan, Obrero, Roxas, Kamuning Kanluran, Kamuning Silangan, Tatalon, Don Manuel, Doña Josefa, San Isidro, Doña Aurora, Santo Niño, Santol, Doña Imelda, Kristong Hari, Kalusugan, Damayang Lagi, Mariana, Valencia, Horseshoe, Pinagkaisahan, San Vicente, U.P. Campus, Krus Na Ligas, Central, Old Capitol Site, U.P. Village, Teacher's East, Teacher's West, Sikatuna, Malaya, Piñahan, and Botocan.

CALOOCAN CITY, two (2) – First District: 70 Barangays; All of Caloocan North of EDSA; Second District: 118 Barangays; All of Caloocan South of EDSA.

PASAY CITY, one (1)

MALABON and **NAVOTAS**, one (1)

SAN JUAN and **MANDALUYONG**, one (1)

MARIKINA, one (1)

MAKATI, one (1)

PASIG, one (1)

PARAÑAQUE, one (1)

LAS PIÑAS and **MUNTINLUPA**, one (1)

PATEROS and **TAGUIG**, one (1)

VALENZUELA, one (1)

REGION I

ABRA, one (1)

BENGUET with the City of Baguio, two (2) – First District: Baguio City; Second District: all the Municipalities of Benguet.

ILOCOS NORTE with Laoag City, two (2) – First District: Laoag City and the Municipalities of Bacarra, Bangui, Burgos, Pagudpud, Pasuquin, Piddig, Sarrat, Vintar, Adams, Carasi, and Dumalneg; Second District: Municipalities of Badoc, Batac, Currimao, Dingras, Espiritu, Marcos, Nueva Era, Paoay, Pinili, San Nicolas, and Solsona.

ILOCOS SUR, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Bantay, Cabugao, Caoayan, Magsingal, San Ildefonso, San Juan, San Vicente, Santa Catalina, Santo Domingo, Sinait, and Vigan; Second District: Municipalities of Alilem, Banayoyo, Burgos, Candon, Cervantes, Galimuyod, Gregorio del Pilar, Lidlidda, Nagbukel, Narvacan, Quirino, Salcedo, San Emilio, San Esteban, Santa, Santa Cruz, Santa Lucia, Santa Maria, Santiago, Suyo, Tagudin, Sigay, and Sugpon.

LA UNION, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Bacnotan, Balaoan, Bangar, Luna, San Fernando, San Gabriel, San Juan, Santol, and Sudipen; Second District: Municipalities of Agoo, Aringay, Bagulin, Bauang, Burgos, Caba, Naguilian, Pugo, Rosario, Santo Tomas, and Tubao.

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, one (1)

PANGASINAN with the Cities of Dagupan and San Carlos, six (6) – First District: Municipalities of Bolinao, Bani, Agno, Burgos, Dasol, Infanta, Mabini, Alaminos, Anda, and Sual; Second District: Municipalities of Labrador, Lingayen, Bugallon, Aguilar, Mangatarem, Binmaley, Urbiztondo, and Basista; Third District: San Carlos City, and the Municipalities of Malasiqui, Bayambang, Calasiao, Mapandan, and Sta. Barbara; Fourth District: Dagupan City and the Municipalities of Mangaldan, San Fabian, San Jacinto, and Manaoag; Fifth District: Municipalities of Binalonan, Laoac, Urdaneta, Villasis, Sison, Pozorrubio, Bautista, Alcala, and Sto. Tomas; Sixth District: Municipalities of Rosales, Asingan, Balungao, Sta. Maria, Umingan, San Quintin, Natividad, Tayug, San Nicolas, and San Manuel.

REGION II

BATANES, one (1)

CAGAYAN, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of Aparri, Camalaniugan, Lallo, Buguey, Sta. Teresita, Gonzaga, Sta. Ana, Gattaran, Baggao, and Alcala; Second District: Municipalities of Sta. Praxedes, Sanchez Mira, Claveria, Pamplona, Abulug, Ballesteros, Allacapan, Lasam, Sto. Niño, Rizal, Piat, and Calayan; Third District: Municipalities of Tuguegarao, Solana, Enrile, Peñablanca, Iguig, Amulung, and Tuao.

IFUGAO, one (1)

ISABELA, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Sta. Maria, San Pablo, Cabagan, Sto. Tomas, Albano, Tumauni, Ilagan, Divilican, Maconacon, and Palanan; Second District: Municipalities of Aurora, San Manuel, Roxas, Mallig, Quezon, Quirino, Burgos, Gamu, Naguilian, Benito Soliven, and San Mariano; Third District: Municipalities of Reina Mercedes, Cauayan, Luna, Cabatuan, San Mateo, Alicia, Angadanan, and San Guillermo; Fourth District: Municipalities of Cordon, Santiago, Ramon, San Isidro, Echague, Jones, San Agustin, and Dinapigui.

KALINGA-APAYAO, one (1)

NUEVA VIZCAYA, one (1)

QUIRINO, one (1)

REGION III

BATAAN, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Dinalupihan, Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, and Morong; Second District: Municipalities of Pilar, Orion, Limay, Bagac, Mariveles, and Balanga.

BULACAN, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Hagonoy, Paombong, Malolos, Calumpit, Pulilan, and Bulacan; Second District: Municipalities of Baliuag, Bustos, Plaridel, Guiguinto, Balagtas, Pandi, and Bocaue; Third District: Municipalities of San Miguel, San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Angat, Norzagaray, and Remedios Trinidad; Fourth District: Municipalities of San Jose del Monte, Sta. Maria, Marilao, Meycauyan, and Obando.

NUEVA ECIJA, with the Cities of Cabanatuan, Palayan and San Jose, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Nampicuan, Cuyapo, Guimba, Quezon, Talavera, Licab, Sto. Domingo, Aliaga, and Zaragoza; Second District: San Jose City and the Municipalities of Lupao, Muñoz, Talugtug, Caranglan, Pantabangan, Llanera, and Rizal; Third District: Cabanatuan City, Palayan City, and the Municipalities of General Natividad, Bongabong, Laur, Gabaldon, and Sta. Rosa; Fourth District: Municipalities of San Leonardo, General Tinio, Peñaranda, Gapan, San Isidro, Cabiao, San Antonio, and Jaen.

PAMPANGA with Angeles City, four (4) – First District: Angeles City and the Municipalities of Mabalacat and Magalang; Second District: Municipalities of Lubao, Guagua, Floridablanca, Porac, Sta. Rita, and Sexmoan; Third District: Municipalities of San Fernando, Arayat, Mexico, Bacolor, and Sta. Ana; Fourth District: Municipalities of Candaba, Apalit, Macabebe, Masantol, Minalin, Sto. Tomas, San Luis, and San Simon.

TARLAC, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of Mayantoc, Sta. Ignacia, Camiling, Moncada, San Manuel, Anao, Paniqui, Ramos, San Clemente, and Pura; Second District: Municipalities of Tarlac, Gerona, and Victoria; Third District: Municipalities of Bamban, Capas, Concepcion, and La Paz.

ZAMBALES with Olongapo City, two (2) – First District: Olongapo City and the Municipalities of Subic, Castillejos, and San Marcelino; Second District: Municipalities of Botolan, Cabangan, Candelaria, Iba, Masinloc, Palauig, San Antonio, San Felipe, San Narciso, and Sta. Cruz.

REGION IV

AURORA, one (1)

BATANGAS with the Cities of Batangas and Lipa, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, Balayan, Tuy, Calaca, Lemery, and Taal; Second District: Batangas City and the Municipalities of Lobo, San Pascual, Bauan, Mabini, San Luis, and Tingloy; Third District: Municipalities of Balete, Malvar, Sto. Tomas, Tanauan, Talisay, Laurel, Agoncillo, San Nicolas, Sta. Teresita,

Alitagtag, Cuenca, and Mataas na Kahoy; Fourth District: Lipa City and the Municipalities of San Juan, Taysan, Rosario, Padre Garcia, Ibaan, and San Jose.

CAVITE with the Cities of Tagaytay, Cavite and Trece Martires, three (3) – First District: Cavite City and the Municipalities of Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario; Second District: Trece Martires City and the Municipalities of Imus, Dasmariñas, Carmona, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, General Trias, and Tanza; Third District: Tagaytay City and the Municipalities of Alfonso, Amadeo, General Aguinaldo, Indang, Magallanes, Maragondon, Mendez-Núñez, Naic, Silang, and Ternate.

LAGUNA with San Pablo City, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Biñan, San Pedro, and Sta. Rosa; Second District: Municipalities of Bay, Cabuyao, Calamba, and Los Baños; Third District: San Pablo City and the Municipalities of Calauan, Alaminos, Rizal, Nagcarlan, Liliw, and Victoria; Fourth District: Municipalities of Sta. Cruz, Pila, Lumban, Pagsanjan, Cavinti, Kalayaan, Paete, Pakil, Pangil, Siniloan, Famy, Mabitac, Sta. Maria, Magdalena, Luisiana, and Majayjay.

MARINDUQUE, one (1)

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, one (1)

ORIENTAL MINDORO, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Baco, Calapan, Naujan, Puerto Galera, San Teodoro, Victoria, Pola, and Socorro; Second District: Municipalities of Bansud, Bongabon, Bulalakao, Gloria, Mansalay, Pinamalayan, and Roxas.

PALAWAN with Puerto Princesa City, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Agutaya, Araceli, Busuanga, Cagayancillo, Coron, Cuyo, Dumaran, El Nido, Linapacan, Magsaysay, Roxas, San Vicente, Taytay, and Kalayaan; Second District: Puerto Princesa City and the Municipalities of Aborlan, Balabac, Batarasa, Brooke's Point, Narra, Quezon, and Marcos.

QUEZON with Lucena City, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Burdeos, Gen. Nakar, Infanta, Jumalig, Panukulan, Patnanungan, Polilio, Real, Sampaloc, Mauban, Pagbilao, Lucban, and Tayabas; Second District: Lucena City and the Municipalities of Candelaria, Dolores, San Antonio, Sariaya, and Tiaong; Third District: Municipalities of Catanauan, Gen. Luna, Macalelon, Mulanay, Pitogo,

San Andres, San Francisco, San Narciso, Buenavista, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, and Unisan; Fourth District: Municipalities of Calauag, Guinayangan, Gumaca, Lopez, Tagkawayan, Atimonan, Plaridel, Alabat, Perez, and Quezon.

RIZAL, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Antipolo, Taytay, Cainta, Angono, and Binangonan; Second District: Municipalities of E. Rodriguez, San Mateo, Morong, Cardona, Teresa, Baras, Tanay, Pililla, and Jala-Jala.

ROMBLON, one (1)

REGION V

ALBAY with Legaspi City, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of Bacacay, Malinao, Malilipot, Santo Domingo, Tabaco, and Tiwi; Second District: Legaspi City and the Municipalities of Camalig, Daraga, Manito, and Rapu-Rapu; Third District: Municipalities of Guinobatan, Jovellar, Libon, Ligao, Oas, Pio Duran, and Polangui.

CAMARINES NORTE, one (1)

CAMARINES SUR including the Cities of Naga and Iriga, four (4) – First District: Municipalities of Del Gallego, Ragay, Lupi, Sipocot, Libmanan, Cabusao, Pamplona, Pasacao, Minalabac, and San Fernando; Second District: Naga City and the Municipalities of Bonbon, Calabanga, Camaligan, Canaman, Gainza, Magarao, Milaor, Ocampo, and Pili; Third District: Municipalities of Caramoan, Garchitorena, Goa, Lagonoy, Presentacion, Sangay, San Jose, Tigaon, Tinambac, and Siruma; Fourth District: Iriga City and the Municipalities of Baao, Balatan, Bato, Buhi, Bula, and Nabua.

CATANDUANES, one (1)

MASBATE, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of San Pascual, Claveria, Monreal, San Jacinto, San Fernando, and Batuan; Second District: Municipalities of Masbate, Mobo, Milagros, Aroroy, Baleno, Balud, and Mandaon; Third District: Municipalities of Uson, Dimasalang, Palanas, Cataingan, Pio V. Corpuz, Esperanza, Placer, and Cawayan.

SORSOGON, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Sorsogon, Pilar, Donsol, Castilla, Bacon, Casiguran, and Magallanes; Second District:

Municipalities of Barcelona, Prieto Diaz, Gubat, Juban, Bulusan, Irosin, Sta. Magdalena, Matnog, and Bulan.

REGION VI

AKLAN, one (1)

ANTIQUE, one (1)

CAPIZ including Roxas City, two (2) – First District: Roxas City and the Municipalities of Panay, Pilar, Pontevedra, President Roxas, Ma-ayon, and Panitan; Second District: Municipalities of Dumalag, Jamindan, Mambusao, Sapián, Sigma, Tapaz, Cuartero, Dao, Dumarao, and Ivisan.

ILOILO, five (5) – First District: Municipalities of Guimbal, Igbaras, San Joaquin, Tigbauan, Tubungan, Miag-ao, and Oton; Second District: Municipalities of Jordan, Nueva Valencia, Buenavista, Pavia, Leganes, Sta. Barbara, New Lucena, Zarraga, Alimodian, Leon, and San Miguel; Third District: Municipalities of Maasin, Cabatuan, Janiuay, Badiangan, Mina, Pototan, Calinog, Lambunao, and Bingawan; Fourth District: Municipalities of Passi, San Enrique, Dueñas, Dingle, Barotac Nuevo, Dumangas, Anilao, and Banate; Fifth District: Municipalities of Barotac Viejo, San Rafael, Ajuy, Lemery, Concepcion, Sara, San Dionisio, Batad, Estancia, Balasan, and Carles.

ILOILO CITY, one (1)

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, with the Cities of San Carlos, Cadiz, Bago, La Carlota, and Silay, six (6) – First District: San Carlos City and the Municipalities of Toboso, Calatrava, Escalante, and S. Benedicto; Second District: Cadiz City and the Municipalities of Sagay and Manapla; Third District: Silay City and the Municipalities of Victorias, Enrique B. Magalona, Talisay, and Murcia; Fourth District: Bago City and the Municipalities of Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Pulupandan, and La Carlota; Fifth District: Municipalities of La Castellana, Moises Padilla, Isabela, Binalbagan, Himamaylan, and Hinigaran; Sixth District: Municipalities of Kabankalan, Ilog, Cauayan, Candoni, Sipalay, and Hinobaan.

BACOLOD CITY, one (1)

REGION VII

BOHOL, with Tagbilaran City, three (3) – First District: Tagbilaran City and the Municipalities of Alburquerque, Antequera, Bacayon, Balilihan, Calape, Catigbian, Corella, Cortes, Dauis, Loon, Maribojoc, Panglao, Sikatuna, and Tubigon; Second District: Municipalities of Clarin, Inabanga, Sagbayan, Buenavista, Jetafe, Dagohoy, Danao, San Miguel, Trinidad, Talibon, Ubay, Bien Unido, San Isidro, and Pres. C. P. Garcia; Third District: Municipalities of Loay, Loboc, Bilar, Batuan, Carmen, Sevilla, Lila, Dimiao, Valencia, Garcia-Hernandez, Jagna, Duero, Guindulman, Candijay, Mabini, Alicia, Anda, Sierra Bullones, and Pilar.

CEBU, with the Cities of Danao, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, and Toledo, six (6) – First District: Municipalities of Talisay, Minglanilla, Naga, San Fernando, Carcar, and Sibongan; Second District: Municipalities of Argao, Dalaguete, Alcoy, Boljoon, Oslob, Santander, Samboan, Ginatilan, Malabuyoc, Alegria, Badian, Moalboal, Alcantara, Ronda, and Dumanjug; Third District: Toledo City and the Municipalities of Barili, Aloguinsan, Pinamungajan, Balamban, Asturias, and Tuburan; Fourth District: Municipalities of Tabuelan, San Remigio, Sta. Fe, Bantayan, Madridejos, Daan-bantayan, Medellin, Bogo, and Tabogon; Fifth District: Danao City and the Municipalities of Borbon, Sogod, Catmon, Carmen, Compostela, Liloan, San Francisco, Poro, Tudela, and Pilar; Sixth District: Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, and the Municipalities of Cordova and Consolacion.

CEBU CITY, two (2) – First District: Barangays of Adlawon, Agsungot, Apas, Bacayan, Banilad, Binaliw, Budla-an, Busay, Cambinocot, Camputhaw, Capitol Site, Carreta, Central Proper, Cogon-Ramos, Day-as, Ermita, Guba, Hipodromo, Kalubihan, Kamagayan, Kasambagan, Lahug, Lorega, Lusaran, Luz, Mabini, Mabolo, Malubog, Pahina Central, Parian, Paril, Pit-os, Pulang Bato, Sambag I, Sambag II, San Antonio, San Jose, San Roque, Sta. Cruz, Sirao, T. Padilla, Talamban, Taptap, Tejero, Tinago, and Zapatera; Second District: Barangays of Babag, Basak Pardo, Basak San Nicolas, Bonbon, Buhisan, Bulacao Pardo, Bout-Taup, Calamba, Cogon Pardo, Duljo Fatima, Guadalupe, Inayawan, Kalunasan, Kinasang-an Pardo, Labangon, Mambaling, Pahina San Nicolas, Pamutan, Pardo, Pasil Abuno, Sibugay, Punta Princesa, Quiot, San Nicolas, Sawang

Calero, Sinsin, Suba Pasil, Sudlon, Sapangdako, Tabunan, Tigbao, Tisa, and Toong.

NEGROS ORIENTAL, with the Cities of Bais, Canlaon, and Dumaguete, three (3) – First District: Canlaon City and the Municipalities of Vallehermoso, Guihulngan, La Libertad, Jimalalud, Tayasan, Ayungon, Bindoy, and Manjuyod; Second District: Bais City, Dumaguete City, and the Municipalities of Mabinay, Tanjay, Pamplona, Amlan, San Jose, and Sibulan; Third District: Municipalities of Valencia, Bacong, Dauin, Zamboangita, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan, and Basay.

SIQUIJOR, one (1)

REGION VIII

LEYTE with the Cities of Tacloban and Ormoc, five (5) – First District: Tacloban City and the Municipalities of Alangalang, Babatngon, Palo, San Miguel, Sta. Fe, Tanauan, and Tolosa; Second District: Municipalities of Barugo, Barauen, Capoocan, Carigara, Dagami, Dulag, Jaro, Julita, La Paz, Mayorga, Mac-Arthur, Pastrana, Tabontabon, and Tunga; Third District: Municipalities of Almeria, Biliran, Cabucgayan, Caibiran, Calubian, Culaba, Kawayan, Leyte, Maripipi, Naval, San Isidro, Tabango, and Villaba; Fourth District: Ormoc City and the Municipalities of Albueria, Isabel, Kananga, Matagob, Merida, and Palompon; Fifth District: Municipalities of Abuyog, Bato, Baybay, Hilongos, Hindang, Inopacan, Javier, Mahaplag, and Matalom.

SOUTHERN LEYTE, one (1)

EASTERN SAMAR, one (1)

NORTHERN SAMAR, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Allen, Biri, Bobon, Capul, Catarman, Lavezares, Lope de Vega, Rosario, San Antonio, San Isidro, San Jose, San Vicente, Victoria, and Mondragon; Second District: Municipalities of Silvino Lobos, San Roque, Pambuyan, Las Navas, Catubig, Laoang, Palapag, Mapanas, Gamay, and Lapinig.

SAMAR with Calbayog City, two (2) – First District: Calbayog City and the Municipalities of Almagro, Gandara, Matuguinao, Pagsanghan,

San Jorge, Santa Margarita, Sto. Niño, Tagapul-an, and Tarangnan; Second District: Municipalities of Basey, Calbiga, Catbalogan, Daram, Hinabangan, San Jose de Buan, Jiabong, Marabut, Motiong, Pinabacdao, San Sebastian, Sta. Rita, Talalora, Villareal, Wright, and Zumarraga.

REGION IX

BASILAN, one (1)

SULU, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Jolo, Marungas, Indanan, Pangutaran, Parang, Talipao, Maimbung, and Patikul; Second District: Municipalities of Siasi, Pandami, Pata, Luuk, K. Caluang, Panamao, New Panamao, Tapul, Lugus, and Tongkil.

TAWI-TAWI, one (1)

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE with the Cities of Dapitan and Dipolog, three (3) – First District: Dapitan City and the Municipalities of Sibutad, Rizal, La Libertad, Mutia, Piñan, Sergio Osmeña, Sr., and Polanco; Second District: Dipolog City and the Municipalities of Katipunan, Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, Manukan, Ponot, Siayan, and Sindangan; Third District: Municipalities of Salug, Godod, Liloy, Tampilisan, Labason, Gutalac, Siocon, Baliguian, Siraway, Bacungan, and Sibuco.

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, with Pagadian City, three (3) – First District: Pagadian City and the Municipalities of Dumingag, Mahayag, Molave, Tambulig, Midsalip, R. Magsaysay, Labangan, Aurora, Tukuran, Josefina, and Don Mariano Marcos; Second District: Municipalities of Dumalinao, San Pablo, Tabina, Dimataling, Dinas, San Miguel, Margosatubig, Lapuyan, Kumalarang, Bayog, Lakewood, Pitogo, and Vincenzo A. Sagun; Third District: Municipalities of Malangas, Alicia, Olutanga, Mabuhay, Siay, Kabasalan, Naga, Ipil, Titay, Tungawan, Buug, Imelda, Payao, Talusan, Diplahan, and Roseller Lim.

ZAMBOANGA CITY, one (1)

REGION X

AGUSAN DEL NORTE, with the City of Butuan, two (2) – First District: Butuan City and the Municipality of Las Nieves; Second District: Municipalities of Buenavista, Cabadbaran, Carmen, Jabonga, Kitcharao, Magallanes, Nasipit, Santiago, Tubay, and Remedios T. Romualdez.

AGUSAN DEL SUR, one (1)

BUKIDNON, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of Talakag, Baungon, Malitbog, Libona, Manolo Fortich, Sumilao, Pangantocan, and Kalilangan; Second District: Municipalities of Malaybalay, Lantapan, Cabanglasan, Valencia, San Fernando, and Impasugong; Third District: Municipalities of Maramag, Quezon, Don Carlos, Kitaotao, Danggagan, Kibawe, Damulog, and Kadingilan.

CAMIGUIN, one (1)

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL with the Cities of Oroquieta, Ozamiz and Tangub, two (2) – First District: Oroquieta City and the Municipalities of Baliangao, Plaridel, Calamba, Sapang Dalaga, Lopez Jaena, Aloran, Concepcion, Panaon, and Jimenez; Second District: Ozamiz City, Tangub City, and the Municipalities of Bonifacio, Tudela, Clarin, Sinacaban, and Don Mariano Marcos.

MISAMIS ORIENTAL, with Gingoog City, two (2) – First District: Gingoog City and the Municipalities of Magsaysay, Talisayan, Balingoan, Medina, Kinogitan, Sugbongcogon, Binuangan, Salay, Lagonglong, and Balingasag; Second District: Municipalities of Claveria, Jasaan, Villanueva, Tagoloan, Alubijid, El Salvador, Gitagum, Initao, Laguindingan, Libertad, Lugait, Manticao, Naawan, and Opol.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, one (1)

SURIGAO DEL NORTE with the City of Surigao, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Sta. Monica, San Isidro, Del Carmen, Pilar, General Luna, Dapa, Socorro, Burgos, San Benito, Loreto, Libjo, Dinagat, Cagdianao, Tubajon, and Basilisa; Second District: Surigao City and the Municipalities of San Francisco, Tagana-an, Sison, Placer, Malimono, Bacuag, Gigaquit, Tubod, Mainit, Alegria, and Claver.

REGION XI

DAVAO DEL NORTE, three (3) – First District: Municipalities of Moncayo, Montevista, Compostela, Nabunturan, New Bataan, Mawab, and San Mariano; Second District: Municipalities of San Vicente, Capalong, Asuncion, New Corella, Tagum, Maco, Mabini, and Pantukan; Third District: Municipalities of Sto. Tomas, Carmen, Panabo, Babak, Samal, and Kaputian.

DAVAO ORIENTAL, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Boston, Cateel, Baganga, Caraga, Manay and Tarragona; Second District: Municipalities of Mati, Banaybanay, Lupon, San Isidro, and Governor Generoso.

DAVAO DEL SUR, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Magsaysay, Bansalan, Sta. Cruz, Matanao, Digos, Hagonoy, and Padada; Second District: Municipalities of Kiblawan, Sulop, Malalag, Sta. Maria, Malita, Jose Abad Santos, Don Marcelino, and Sarangani.

DAVAO CITY, three (3) – First District: Districts of Poblacion and Talomo; Second District: Districts of Buhangin, Bunawan, and Paquibato; Third District: Districts of Toril, Tugbok, Calinan, and Baguio.

SOUTH COTABATO with General Santos City, three (3) – First District: General Santos City, and the Municipalities of Polomolok, Tampakan, and Tupi; Second District: Municipalities of Tantanagan, Norala, Banga, Sto. Niño, Surallah, Koronadal, Tiboli, and Lake Sebu; Third District: Municipalities of Alabel, Malapatan, Glan, Maasim, Kiamba, Maitum, and Malungon.

SURIGAO DEL SUR, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Bayabas, Cantilan, Carrascal, Cortes, Lanuza, Madrid, San Miguel, Tago, Tandag, Cagwait, Marihatag, San Agustin, Carmen, and Lianga; Second District: Municipalities of Barobo, Bislig, Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina.

REGION XII

LANAO DEL NORTE with Iligan City, two (2) – First District: Iligan City, Linamon, Kauswagan, Bacolod, Maigo, Kolambugan, Tubod, and

Baroy; Second District: Baloi, Pantar, Tagoloan, Poona-Piagapo, Pantao-Ragat, Matungao, Tangkal, Munai, Nunungan, Magsaysay, Salvador, Kapatagan, Karomatan, Sapad, and Lala.

LANAO DEL SUR with Marawi City, two (2) – First District: Marawi City and the Municipalities of Marantao, Piagapo, Saguieran, Tagoloan, Kapai, Ditsaan-Ramain, Bubong, Buadiposo-Buntong, Bumbaran, Maguing, Wao, Molundo, Taraka, Lumba-Bayabao, Poona-Bayabao, Masiu and Tamparan; Second District: Municipalities of Balindong, Tugaya, Bacolod Grande, Madalum, Madamba, Pualas, Ganassi, Pagayawan, Sultan Gumander, Malabang, Balabagan, Kapatagan, Marogong, Tubaran, Binidayan, Lumbatan, Lumbayanague, Butig, Bayang, and Calanogas.

MAGUINDANAO with Cotabato City, two (2) – First District: Cotabato City and the Municipalities of Parang, Sultan Kudarat, Buldon, Barira, Dinaig, Kabuntalan, Matanog and Upi; Second District: Municipalities of Pagalungan, Buluan, Sultan sa Barongis, Maganoy, Talayan, South Upi, Datu Piang, Datu Paglas, and Ampatuan.

NORTH COTABATO, two (2) – First District: Municipalities of Carmen, Kabacan, Libungan, Midsayap, Pigkawayan, Pikit, Aleosan, Banisilan, and Alamada; Second District: Municipalities of Kidapawan, Makilala, Matalam, Antipas, M'lang, Pres. Roxas, Tulunan, and Magpet.

SULTAN KUDARAT, one (1)

Sec. 2. The Commission on Elections is hereby empowered to make minor adjustments of the reappointment herein made.

Sec. 3. Any province that may hereafter be created, or any city whose population may hereafter increase to more than two hundred fifty thousand shall be entitled in the immediately following election to at least one Member or such number of Members as it may be entitled to on the basis of the number of its inhabitants and according to the standards set forth in paragraph (3), Section 5 of Article VI of the Constitution. The number of Members apportioned to the province out of which such new province was created or where the

city, whose population has so increased, is geographically located shall be correspondingly adjusted by the Commission on Elections but such adjustment shall not be made within one hundred and twenty days before the election.

Sec. 4. This Ordinance shall be appended to the Constitution proposed by the 1986 Constitutional Commission, and shall be submitted to a plebiscite simultaneously with such Constitution, and shall take effect upon its ratification by a majority of the votes cast in such plebiscite.

Adopted, October 15, 1986

**Index to the
1987 Constitution of the
Republic of the Philippines**

2/3 votes of both Houses 157
2nd Monday of May 153, 161, 212
30th of June 152, 153, 161, 212
6 years 152, 153, 161, 212

A

Abra 220
Absentee voting 151
Accountability of public officers 186-191
Accused
 Rights 149
Act, Organic 185
Acting President 162-165
 Appointments extended by 165
 Oath 162
Action, Judicial 216
Advertising industry 210
Age
 Citizenship 150
 Suffrage 151
Agrarian reform 146, 191, 193, 198, 199
Agrarian reform program 198, 199, 215
Agricultural estates 198
Agricultural lands 191, 192, 198, 210, 215
 Idle 215
Agriculture 198
Agusan del Norte
 1st district 229
 2nd district 229
Agusan del Sur 229
Aklan 225
Alaminos, Municipality of
 Laguna 223
 Pangasinan 220
Albay
 1st district 224
 2nd district 224
 3rd district 224
Alcala, Municipality of
 Cagayan 221
 Pangasinan 220
Alegria, Municipality of
 Cebu 226
 Surigao del Norte 229

Alicia, Municipality of
 Bohol 226
 Isabela 221
 Zamboanga del Sur 228
Alienable lands 192
Aliens 151, 204
 Marriage to 151
Allegiance
 Dual 151
 State and Constitution 191
Ambassadors 166, 169
Amendments 211-212
Amnesty 167, 180
Ancestral lands 193, 198
Anda, Municipality of
 Bohol 226
 Pangasinan 220
Angeles City, Pampanga 222
Antique 225
Appointments 156, 165, 166, 172, 175, 188
Appointments, Commission on 156, 165, 166, 171, 175, 177, 181
Apportionment 231
Appropriations 157, 158, 159, 164, 168, 171, 174, 180, 190, 201
 Augmentation 158
 Discretionary funds 158
 Limitations 159
 Prescribed by law 157, 158
 Procedures in approving 157
 Special bill 157
Appropriations Bill 157, 158, 168
 Failure to pass for the ensuing fiscal year 158
Appropriations Law
 Reenactment 158
Archipelago, Philippine 143
Armed forces 159, 166, 191, 209
Armed Forces of the Philippines 144, 165, 166, 178, 208
 Chief-of-Staff 165
 Composition 208
Articles of Impeachment 187
Arts and culture 206-207
Assets 190, 204, 215

Audit, Commission on 156, 174, 181-182, 189, 214
Aurora (Province) 222
Aurora, Municipality of
Isabela 221
Zamboanga del Sur 228
Authority
Civilian 144
Monetary 196
Autonomous Regions 182, 184-186
Attributes 184-185
Cordilleras 184
Creation 184, 185
General supervision by the President 185
Muslim Mindanao 184
Organic Act 185
Legislative powers 185-186
Peace and order 186
Autonomous state colleges 181
Autonomy, Local 182, 183

B

Bacolod City 225
Bago City, Negros Occidental 225
Baguio
City (Benguet) 220
Bail 148
Right to 148
Bais City, Negros Oriental 227
Ballot 151
Banks and banking 196
Barangays
Adlawon, Cebu City 226
Agsungot, Cebu City 226
Aguinaldo, Quezon City 219
Alicia, Quezon City 218
Amihan, Quezon City 219
Apas, Cebu City 226
Apolonio Samson, Quezon City 219
Babag, Cebu City 226
Bacayan, Cebu City 226
Baesa, Quezon City 219
Bagbag, Quezon City 219
Bagong Lipunan, Quezon City 219

Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City 219
Bagong Silangan, Quezon City 219
Bagumbayan, Quezon City 219
Bagumbuhay, Quezon City 219
Bahay Toro, Quezon City 218
Balingasa, Quezon City 218
Balumbato, Quezon City 219
Banilad, Cebu City 226
Barangays Nos. 1-146, Manila 217
Barangays Nos. 147-267, Manila 217
Barangays Nos. 268-394, Manila 217
Barangays Nos. 395 – [5]86, Manila 218
Barangays Nos. 587-648, Manila 218
Barangays Nos. 649-828, Manila 218
Barangays Nos. 829-905, Manila 218
Basak Pardo, Cebu City 226
Basak San Nicolas, Cebu City 226
Batasan Hills, Quezon City 219
Bayanihan, Quezon City 219
Binaliw, Cebu City 226
Blue Ridge A, Quezon City 219
Blue Ridge B, Quezon City 219
Bonbon, Cebu City 226
Botocan, Quezon City 219
Bout-Taup, Cebu City 226
Budla-an, Cebu City 226
Buhisan, Cebu City 226
Bulacao Pardo, Cebu City 226
Bungad, Quezon City 226
Busay, Cebu City 226
Calamba, Cebu City 226
Calero, Cebu City 227
Caloocan 219
Cambinocot, Cebu City 226
Camputhaw, Cebu City 226
Capital Site, Cebu City 226
Capri, Quezon City 219
Carreta, Cebu City 226
Cebu City 226
Central Proper, Cebu City 226
Central, Quezon City 219
Cogon Pardo, Cebu City 226
Cogon-Ramos, Cebu City 226
Commonwealth, Quezon City 219
Culiat, Quezon City 219

- Damar, Quezon City* 218
Damayán, Quezon City 218
Damayang Lagi, Quezon City 219
Day-as, Cebu City 226
Del Monte, Quezon City 218
Don Manuel, Quezon City 219
Doña Aurora, Quezon City 219
Doña Imelda, Quezon City 219
Doña Josefa, Quezon City 219
Duljo Fatima, Cebu City 226
Duyan-Duyan, Quezon City 219
E. Rodriguez, Quezon City 219
East Kamias, Quezon City 219
Ermita, Cebu City 226
Escopa 1, Quezon City 219
Escopa 2, Quezon City 219
Escopa 3, Quezon City 219
Escopa 4, Quezon City 219
Fairview, Quezon City 219
Guadalupe, Cebu City 226
Guba, Cebu City 226
Gulod, Quezon City 219
Hipodromo, Cebu City 226
Holy Spirit, Quezon City 219
Horseshoe, Quezon City 219
Immaculate Concepcion, Quezon City 219
Inayawan, Cebu City 226
Kaligayahan, Quezon City 219
Kalubihan, Cebu City 226
Kalunasan, Cebu City 226
Kalusugan, Quezon City 219
Kamagayan, Cebu City 226
Kamuning Kanluran, Quezon City 219
Kamuning Silangan, Quezon City 219
Kasambagan, Cebu City 226
Katipunan, Quezon City 218
Kaunlaran, Quezon City 219
Kinasang-an Pardo, Cebu City 226
Kristong Hari, Quezon City 219
Krus Na Ligas, Quezon City 219
Labangon, Cebu City 226
Laging Handa, Quezon City 219
Lahug, Cebu City 226
Libis, Quezon City 219
Lorega, Cebu City 226
Lourdes, Quezon City 218
Loyola Heights, Quezon City 219
Lusaran, Cebu City 226
Luz, Cebu City 226
Mabini, Cebu City 226
Mabolo, Cebu City 226
Maharlika, Quezon City 218
Malaya, Quezon City 219
Malubog, Cebu City 226
Mambaling, Cebu City 226
Manga, Quezon City 219
Manresa, Quezon City 218
Mariana, Quezon City 219
Mariblo, Quezon City 218
Marilag, Quezon City 219
Masagana, Quezon City 219
Masambong, Quezon City 218
Matandang Balara, Quezon City 219
Milagrosa, Quezon City 219
N.S. Amoranto, Quezon City 218
Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City 219
Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City 218
New Era, Quezon City 219
Novaliches Proper, Quezon City 219
Obrero, Quezon City 219
Old Capitol Site, Quezon City 219
Paang Bundok, Quezon City 218
Pag-ibig sa Nayon, Quezon City 218
Pahina Central, Cebu City 226
Pahina San Nicolas, Cebu City 226
Paligsahan, Quezon City 219
Paltok, Quezon City 218
Pamutan, Cebu City 226
Pansol, Quezon City 219
Paraiso, Quezon City 218
Pardo, Cebu City 226
Parian, Cebu City 226
Paril, Cebu City 226
Pasil Abuno, Cebu City 226
Pasong Putik, Quezon City 219
Pasong Tamo, Quezon City 219
Payatas, Quezon City 219
Philam, Quezon City 218
Pinagkaisahan, Quezon City 219
Piñahan, Quezon City 219

<i>Pit-os, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Sta. Cruz, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>Project 6, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Sta. Cruz, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Pulang Bato, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Sta. Lucia, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Punta Princesa, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Sta. Monica, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Quiot, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Sta. Teresita, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Quirino 2-A, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Sto. Cristo, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Quirino 2-B, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Sto. Domingo, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Quirino 2-C, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Suba Pasil, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>Quirino 3-A, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Sudlon, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>Quirino 3-B, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>T. Padilla, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>Ramon Magsaysay, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Tabunan, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>Roxas, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Tagumpay, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sacred Heart, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Talamban, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>Salvacion, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Talayan, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Sambag I, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Talipapa, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sambag II, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Tandang Sora, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Agustin, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Taptap, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>San Antonio, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Tatalon, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Antonio, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Teacher's East, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Bartolome, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Teacher's West, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Isidro Labrador, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Tejero, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>San Isidro, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Tigbao, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>San Jose, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>Tinago, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>San Jose, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Tisa, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>San Martin, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Toong, Cebu City</i>	227
<i>San Nicolas, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>U.P. Campus, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Roque, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>U.P. Village, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Roque, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Ugong Norte, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>San Vicente, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Unang Sigaw, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sangandaan, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Valencia, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Santo Niño, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Vasra, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Santol, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Veterans Village, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Sapangdako, Cebu City</i>	227	<i>Villa Maria Clara, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sauyo, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>West Kamias, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sawang, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>West Triangle, Quezon City</i>	218
<i>Sibugay, Cebu City</i>	226	<i>White Plains, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Sienna, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>Zapatera, Cebu City</i>	226
<i>Sikatuna, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>Zobel Diaquino, Quezon City</i>	219
<i>Silangan, Quezon City</i>	219		
<i>Sinsin, Cebu City</i>	227	Basilan	228
<i>Sirao, Cebu City</i>	226	Batanes	221
<i>Socorro, Quezon City</i>	219	Batangas	
<i>South Triangle, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>1st District</i>	222
<i>St. Ignatius, Quezon City</i>	219	<i>2nd District</i>	222
<i>St. Peter, Quezon City</i>	218	<i>3rd District</i>	222
		<i>4th District</i>	223

- Batangas City** 222
- Bato, Municipality of**
Camarines Sur 224
Leyte 227
- Batuan, Municipality of**
Bohol 226
Masbate 224
- Benguet**
1st District 220
2nd District 220
- Bill of Rights** 146-150
- Bills**
Appropriations 157, 158, 168
One subject/Title 158
Passed three readings 158
Signed by the President 159
Tariff 157, 159
Vetoed 158, 159
- Bodies**
Administrative 149, 154
Constitutional 181
Quasi-judicial 148, 149, 170, 213
- Bohol**
1st district 226
2nd district 226
3rd district 226
- Budget** 157, 168, 171
Expenditures 168
- Buenavista, Municipality of**
Agusan del Norte 229
Bohol 226
Iloilo 225
Quezon 224
- Bukidnon**
1st district 229
2nd district 229
3rd district 229
- Bulacan** 221
- Burgos, Municipality of**
Ilocos Norte 220
Ilocos Sur 220
Isabela 221
La Union 220
Pangasinan 220
Surigao del Norte 229
- Butuan City, Agusan del Norte** 229
- C**
- Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija** 222
- Cabatuan, Municipality of**
Iloilo 225
Isabela 221
- Cabinet members**
Conflict of interest 165
Foreign Affairs 165
National Defense 165
- Cadiz City, Negros Occidental** 225
- Cagayan**
1st District 221
2nd District 221
3rd District 221
- Cagayan De Oro City** 229
- Calamba, Municipality of**
Laguna 223
Misamis Occidental 229
- Calbayog City, Samar** 227
- Caloocan City**
1st district 219
2nd district 219
- Camarines Norte** 224
- Camarines Sur**
1st district 224
2nd district 224
3rd district 224
4th district 224
- Campaign funds** 178
- Camiguin** 229
- Candelaria, Municipality of**
Quezon 223
Zambales 222
- Candidates** 175, 177, 178, 180, 181, 188
- Canlaon City, Negros Oriental** 227
- Capital punishment** 149
- Capiz**
1st district 225
2nd district 225
- Career service** 176
- Carmen, Municipality of**
Agusan del Norte 229

- Bohol* 226
Cebu 226
Davao del Norte 230
North Cotabato 231
Surigao del Sur 230
Catanduanes 224
Cauayan, Municipality of
Isabela 221
Negros Occidental 225
Cavite
1st district 223
2nd district 223
3rd district 223
Cavite City, Cavite 223
Cebu
1st district 226
2nd district 226
3rd district 226
4th district 226
5th district 226
6th district 226
Cebu City 226
1st district 226
2nd district 226-227
Census
Reapportionment of legislative districts 153
Central Bank of the Philippines
Central monetary authority 196
Functions 196
Governing Board 196
Powers and duties 196
Certificates of canvass 161
Certiorari 169, 175
Charitable institutions 159
Charters
Cities 184
Original 175, 176, 181
Special 195
Chief Justice 155, 158, 169, 171, 172, 173, 187, 214
Impeachment proceedings as Presider 187
Children
Education 202-205
Family 208
Health 199-200
Church and State 144
Churches 159
Cities
Angeles City, Pampanga 222
Bacolod City 225
Bago City, Negros Occidental 225
Baguio City, Benguet 220
Bais City, Negros Oriental 227
Batangas City, Batangas 222
Butuan City, Agusan del Norte 229
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija 222
Cadiz City, Negros Occidental 225
Cagayan De Oro City 229
Calbayog City, Samar 227
Caloocan City 219
Canlaon City, Negros Oriental 227
Cavite City, Cavite 223
Cebu City 226
Cotabato City, Maguindanao 231
Dagupan City, Pangasinan 220
Danao City, Cebu 226
Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Davao City 230
Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental 227
General Santos City, South Cotabato 230
Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental 229
Iligan City, Lanao del Norte 230
Iloilo City 225
Iriga City, Camarines Sur 224
La Carlota City, Negros Occidental 225
Laaag City, Ilocos Norte 220
Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu 226
Las Piñas 219
Legaspi City, Albay 224
Lipa City, Batangas 223
Lucena City, Quezon 223
Makati 219
Malabon 219
Mandaluyong 219
Mandaue City, Cebu 226
Manila 217
Marawi City, Lanao del Sur 231

- Marikina* 219
Muntinlupa 219
Naga City, Camarines Sur 224
Navotas 219
Olongapo City, Zambales 222
Ormoc City, Leyte 227
Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental 229
Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental 229
Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Palayan City, Nueva Ecija 222
Parañaque 219
Pasay City 219
Pasig 219
Pateros 219
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan 223
Quezon City 218
Roxas City, Capiz 225
San Carlos City, Negros Occidental 225
San Carlos City, Pangasinan 222
San Jose City, Nueva Ecija 222
San Juan, Metro Manila 219
San Nicolas, Cebu City 226
San Pablo City, Laguna 223
Silay City, Negros Occidental 225
Surigao City, Surigao del Norte 229
Tacloban City, Leyte 227
Tagaytay City, Cavite 223
Tagbilaran City, Bohol 226
Taguig 219
Tangub City, Misamis Occidental 229
Toledo City, Cebu 226
Trece Martires City, Cavite 223
Valenzuela 219
Zamboanga City 228
- Citizens** 150
Dual allegiance 151
- Citizenship** 150-151
Loss 150
Reacquisition 150
Retention 151
Renunciation 151
- Civil courts** 167
- Civilian authority** 144
- Civil service** 144, 175, 176
- Allegiance to the State and Constitution* 191
Compensation 176
Oath or affirmation 176
Prohibited from electioneering/political campaigns 176
Protection for temporary employees 176
- Public officers**
Appointive 177
Elective 177
Pensions 177
Right to self-organization 176
- Civil Service Commission** 175-177
Career service 176
Central personnel agency of the Government 176
- Chairman**
Appointments 175
- Commissioners**
Appointments 175
Composition 175
Report on personnel programs 176
Term of office 175
- Civil Service Law** 170, 188
- Clarin, Municipality of**
Bohol 226
Misamis Occidental 229
- Claveria, Municipality of**
Cagayan 221
Masbate 224
Misamis Oriental 229
- Collective bargaining** 197
- Commission on Appointments** 156, 165, 166, 171, 175, 177, 181
Chairman 156
Composition 156
Meetings 156
- Commission on Audit** 156, 174, 181-182, 189, 214
Accounts of the Government 182
- Chairman**
Appointments 181
- Commissioners**
Appointments 181
Composition 181

- Powers and duties* 181
- Reports**
 - Congress* 182
 - President* 182
 - Scope of audit* 182
 - Term of office* 181
- Commission on Elections** 151, 174, 177-180, 212, 214, 231, 232
 - Adjustments of reapportionment of legislative districts* 231
 - Appropriations* 180
 - Chairman**
 - Appointments* 177
 - Commissioners**
 - Appointments* 177
 - Composition* 177
 - Constitutional amendments**
 - Plebiscite**
 - Certify sufficiency of petition* 212
 - Election period* 179
 - Functions* 177-179
 - Powers and duties* 177-179
 - Recommendations**
 - Congress* 179
 - President* 179
 - Reports**
 - Congress* 179
 - President* 179
 - Rules of Procedures* 179
 - Term of office* 177
- Commission on Human Rights** 200-202
 - Creation* 200
 - Composition* 200-201
 - Functions* 201
 - Monitor government's compliance with international treaty obligations* 201
 - Powers and duties* 201
 - Presidential Committee on Human Rights* 201
 - Term of office* 201
- Common Provisions** 174-175
- Communication**
 - Privacy* 147
 - Role in nation building* 146
- Compostela, Municipality of**
 - Cebu* 226
 - Davao del Norte* 230
- Concepcion, Municipality of**
 - Iloilo* 225
 - Misamis Occidental* 229
 - Tarlac* 222
- Congress of the Philippines** 151, 217
 - 1st Congress* 217
 - Accounts**
 - Books* 156
 - Open to public* 156
 - Records* 156
 - Consultative body* 211
 - Convening of both houses** 154
 - Call for Special Elections* 163-164
 - During vacancy in the offices of the President and Vice President* 163-164
 - Electoral Tribunal* 155
 - House of Representatives* 151
 - Initiative* 158
 - Journal of Proceedings* 155
 - Public lands* 192-193
 - Record of Proceedings* 155
 - Referendum* 160
 - Rules of Procedure**
 - Impeachment proceedings* 187
 - Inquiries in aid of legislation* 156
 - Rules of Proceedings* 155
 - Senate of the Philippines* 151
 - Standardization of compensation of government workers* 176
- Constitution (1987)**
 - Adjustments of the reapportionment of legislative districts* 231
 - As part of the curricula* 203
 - Effectivity* 216
 - Ordinance* 217-232
 - Proposed amendments/revisions**
 - 3/4 vote of Members of Congress* 211
 - Constitutional convention* 211
 - People's Initiative* 211
 - Plebiscite* 211
- Constitutional Commissions**
 - 1986* 232

Appropriations 174
Civil Service Commission 175-177
Commission on Audit 181-182
Commission on Elections 177-180
Common Provisions 174-175
Compensation 174
Fiscal autonomy 174
Members 174
Constitutional Convention 211
Constitutionality 169
Constitutional rights 170
Consuls 166, 169
Contested elections 162, 178
Cooperatives 191, 193, 195, 198, 210
Cordilleras 182, 184, 185
Corporations
 Filipino-owned 194
 Foreign-owned 192
 Private 191
Cortes, Municipality of
 Bohol 226
 Surigao del Sur 230
Cotabato City, Maguindanao 231
Courts
 Free access 148
Credit 196
Cultural heritage 184, 186, 206
Cultural property 207
Culture 145, 202, 206, 207

D

Dagupan City, Pangasinan 220
Danao City, Cebu 226
Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Davao City
 1st district 230
 2nd district 230
 3rd district 230
Davao del Norte
 1st district 230
 2nd district 230
 3rd district 230
Davao del Sur
 1st district 230

2nd district 230
Davao Oriental
 1st district 230
 2nd district 230
Death penalty 149
Decentralization 183, 184
 Administrative 184
Declaration of Principles and State Policies
 143
Del Carmen, Municipality of 229
Democracy 143, 144
Department heads 156
Detention
 Prohibition against forms of 148
Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Districts (Administrative)
 Baguio, Davao City 230
 Buhangin, Davao City 230
 Bunawan, Davao City 230
 Calinan, Davao City 230
 Paquibato, Davao City 230
 Poblacion, Davao City 230
 Talomo, Davao City 230
 Toril, Davao City 230
 Tugbok, Davao City 230
Domain, Public 191, 192, 193, 198, 210, 215
Don Mariano Marcos, Municipality of
 Misamis Occidental 229
 Zamboanga del Sur 228
Due process of law 146, 149
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental 227

E

Eastern Samar 227
Economic development
 Cooperatives 195
Economic growth 192
Education 145, 201, 202, 205, 206, 207, 215
 Arts and culture 206-207
 Budgetary priority 204
 Constitution as part of curricula 203
 Free public education system 202
 Philippine History 203
 Physical 207

Religion 203
Scholarships 203
Science and technology 206
Sports 207
Student aid 203
Educational institutions 203, 204, 207
Academic freedom in higher learning 204
Control and administration 204
Tax exemption 204
Educational System 203, 205, 207
Elderly people 208
Elections 177
Candidates 176
Frauds 179
Laws 179, 180
Monitoring 180
National 161
Period 179, 180
Political candidates 180
Returns 161
Spending 179
Tie 161
Election monitoring 180
Election period 179, 180
Election workers 180
Electioneering *SEE* Political campaigns
Electoral Tribunal (Congress)
Chairman 155
Composition 155
Employment 191
En banc 169
English 205
Enterprises 191
Evidence 147, 148, 149, 202
Exclusive economic zones 192
Executive agreement 169, 170
Executive Department 160-168

F
Family 207-208
Rights 208
Sanctity 145
Farmers and farmworkers 198
Landless 198

Filipino
Official language for communication and instruction 205
Filipinos 145, 151, 192, 194, 201
Fish culture 192
Fish farming *SEE* Fish culture
Fishermen and fishworkers 192, 198, 199
Fiscal year 158
Flags
Philippines 208
Food law and legislation 199
Foreign corporations 192
Foreign investments 194
Foreign investors 195, 210
Foreign loans 196
Forest Lands 193
Franchises 194-195
Freedom of
Expression 147
Press 147
Speech 147
Freeze Orders 216

G
General Appropriations Bill 157, 158, 168
Failure to pass for the ensuing fiscal year 158
General Appropriations Law
Reenactment 158
General Provisions 208-211
General Santos City, South Cotabato 230
Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental 229
Graft and corruption 146
Grievances 147
Government 144
Government-owned or controlled corporations
 154, 165, 167, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 181, 182, 189, 190, 195, 209
Audit reports 182
Civil service 175
Creation 195

H

Hagonoy, Municipality of

Bulacan 221

Davao del Sur 230

Health 199-200

Right of people 145

Heritage 206

House of Representatives

Bills

Appropriation 157

Increase/decrease in public debt 157

Local application 157

Private 157

Revenue 157

Tariff 157

Composition 152

Convening of both houses 154

Electoral Tribunal 155

Initiating impeachment 186

Journal of Proceedings 155

Legislative districts 152

Party-list 152

Record of Proceedings 155

Rules of Procedure

Impeachment proceedings 187

Inquiries in aid of legislation 156

Rules of Proceedings 155

Speaker 154

As Acting President of the Philippines

162-163

Housing 199

Human rights 145, 197, 200-202

I

Ifugao 221

Iligan City, Lanao del Norte 230

Ill-gotten wealth

Recovery 216

Illiterate

Right to suffrage 151

Ilocos Norte

1st district 220

2nd district 220

Ilocos Sur

1st district 220

2nd district 220

Iloilo

1st district 225

2nd district 225

3rd district 225

4th district 225

5th district 225

Iloilo City 225

Impeachment 167, 186, 187

Articles of impeachment 187

Filing of verified complaint 186, 187

Imprisonment 153

Indigenous cultural communities 146, 152,

193, 207, 211

Rights 207

Industrialization 191

Infanta, Municipality of

Pangasinan 220

Quezon 223

Information

Access to 147

Right to 147

Initiative 177

Integrated Bar 170, 171

Interpellations 156

Iriga City, Camarines Sur 224

Isabela

1st District 221

2nd District 221

3rd District 221

4th District 221

J

Jeopardy 150

Judicial and Bar Council 171, 172, 188

Appointment recommendations

Judiciary 172

Office of the Ombudsman 188

Appropriations 171

Composition 171

Creation 171

Judicial Department 168-173

Appropriations 168-169

Fiscal autonomy 168

Judicial power

- Lower Courts* 168
- Supreme Court* 168

K**Kalayaan, Municipality of**

- Laguna* 223
- Palawan* 223

Kalinga-Apayao 221**Kapatagan, Municipality of**

- Lanao del Norte* 231
- Lanao del Sur* 231

L**La Carlota City, Negros Occidental** 225**La Libertad, Municipality of**

- Negros Oriental* 227
- Zamboanga del Norte* 228

Labor

- Rights of workers* 145, 197
- Strikes and lockouts* 197

Laguna

- 1st district* 223
- 2nd district* 223
- 3rd district* 223
- 4th district* 223

Lanao del Norte

- 1st district* 230
- 2nd district* 231

Lanao del Sur

- 1st district* 231
- 2nd district* 231

Landowners 198, 199**Land reform**

- Urban* 199

Lands

- Agricultural* 191, 192, 198, 210, 215
- Alienable* 192
- Ancestral* 193, 198
- Forest* 193
- Idle* 215
- Mineral* 192
- Private* 193

- Public domain* 191, 192, 193, 198, 210, 215

- Real rights* 215

- Retention limits* 198

Land settlement 199**Language**

- English* 205

- Filipino* 205

National

- Filipino* 205

- National Language Commission* 205

- Official* 205

- Regional* 205

Voluntary and optional

- Arabic* 205

- Spanish* 205

Laoag City, Ilocos Norte 220**Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu** 226**La Union**

- 1st district* 220

- 2nd district* 220

Lawless violence 166**Legal assistance** 148**Legaspi City, Albay** 224**Legislative assemblies** 167**Legislative Department** 151-160**Congress**

- Convening of both houses* 154

- House of Representatives* 151

- Rules on Impeachment* 187

- Senate of the Philippines* 151

Legislative districts 152

- Reapportionment* 153

Lemery, Municipality of

- Batangas* 222

- Iloilo* 225

Leyte

- 1st district* 227

- 2nd district* 227

- 3rd district* 227

- 4th district* 227

- 5th district* 227

Liberty of abode 147**Lipa City, Batangas** 223**Local Government(s)**

- Autonomous Regions* 184-186
- Autonomy* 146, 182
- Code* 182, 184
- Elective officials***
 - Term of office* 183
- General Provisions* 182-184
- Legislative bodies* 183
- Powers and duties* 183
- President* 183
- Subdivisions***
 - Political* 182
 - Territorial* 182
- Local Government Code** 182, 184
 - Changes in political subdivision of province, city, municipality or barangay* 184
- Local government units** 183, 184
- Local Officials** 183
- Logging** 193
- Lower Courts**
 - Appointments* 172
 - Compensation* 172
 - Judges* 172
- Lucena City, Quezon** 223
- Luna, Municipality of**
 - Isabela* 221
 - La Union* 220

- M**
- Mabini, Municipality of**
 - Batangas* 222
 - Bohol* 226
 - Davao del Norte* 230
 - Pangasinan* 220
- Magallanes, Municipality of**
 - Agusan del Norte* 229
 - Cavite* 223
 - Sorsogon* 224
- Magsaysay, Municipality of**
 - Davao del Sur* 230
 - Lanao del Norte* 231
 - Misamis Oriental* 229
 - Palawan* 223
- Maguindanao**
 - 1st district* 231
 - 2nd district* 231
- Makati** 219
- Malabon** 219
- Malpractice** 179, 210
- Mandaluyong** 219
- Mandaue City, Cebu** 226
- Manila**
 - 1st district* 217
 - 2nd district* 217
 - 3rd district* 217-218
 - 4th district* 217
 - 5th district* 217
 - 6th district* 217
- Marawi City, Lanao del Sur** 231
- Marcos, Municipality of**
 - Ilocos Norte* 220
 - Palawan* 223
- Marikina** 219
- Marinduque** 223
- Marine resources** 192
- Marriage** 207
- Martial Law** 166-167
 - Proclamation* 166
- Masbate**
 - 1st district* 224
 - 2nd district* 224
 - 3rd district* 224
- Mass media** 210
- Members of Congress**
 - 1987 Constitution**
 - First elections* (2nd Monday, May 1987) 212
 - Term of office**
 - Senators* 212
- Members of the House of Representatives**
 - Election** 153
 - Qualifications and requirements* 153
 - Special* 153
 - Full disclosure of assets and net worth*
 - Immunities* 153, 154
 - Nominated for Vice President* 163
 - Salaries, etc.* 214
 - Term of office* 153
 - Vacancy* 153
- Metropolitan Authority** 184, 213

Metropolitan Manila Area 152, 212-213, 217-219

Caloocan City 219
Las Pinas 219
Makati 219
Malabon 219
Mandaluyong 219
Manila 217-218
Marikina 219
Muntinlupa 219
Navotas 219
Paranaque 219
Pasay City 219
Pasig 219
Pateros 219
Quezon City 218-219
San Juan 219
Taguig 219
Valenzuela 219

Military bases

Agreement between the Philippines and the United States 216

Military Officers 209**Minerals** 191-192**Misamis Occidental**

1st district 229
2nd district 229

Misamis Oriental

1st district 229
2nd district 229

Monetary authority 196**Monetary Board** 167**Monopolies** 196, 210**Morong, Municipality of**

Bataan 221
Rizal 224

Mountain Province**Municipalities**

Aborlan, Palawan 223
Abucay, Bataan 221
Abulug, Cagayan 221
Abuyog, Leyte 227
Adams, Ilocos Norte 220
Agno, Pangasinan 220
Agoncillo, Batangas 222

Agoo, La Union 220
Aguilar, Pangasinan 220
Agutaya, Palawan 223
Ajuy, Iloilo 225
Alabat, Quezon 224
Alabel, South Cotabato 230
Alamada, North Cotabato 231
Alaminos, Laguna 223
Alaminos, Pangasinan 220
Alangalang, Leyte 227
Albano, Isabela 221
Albuera, Leyte 227
Albuquerque, Bohol 226
Alcala, Cagayan 221
Alcala, Pangasinan 220
Alcantara, Cebu 226
Alcoy, Cebu 226
Alegria, Cebu 226
Alegria, Surigao del Norte 229
Aleosan, North Cotabato 231
Alfonso, Cavite 223
Aliaga, Nueva Ecija 221
Alicia, Bohol 226
Alicia, Isabela 221
Alicia, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Alilem, Ilocos Sur 220
Alimodian, Iloilo 225
Alitagtag, Batangas 223
Allacapan, Cagayan 221
Allen, Northern Samar 227
Almagro, Samar 227
Almeria, Leyte 227
Aloguinsan, Cebu 226
Aloran, Misamis Occidental 229
Alubijid, Misamis Oriental 229
Amadeo, Cavite 223
Amlan, Negros Oriental 227
Ampatuan, Maguindanao 231
Amulung, Cagayan 221
Anao, Tarlac 222
Anda, Bohol 226
Anda, Pangasinan 220
Angadanan, Isabela 221
Angat, Bulacan 221
Angono, Rizal 224

- Anilao, Iloilo* 225
Antequera, Bohol 226
Antipas, North Cotabato 231
Antipolo, Rizal 224
Apalit, Pampanga 222
Aparri, Cagayan 221
Araceli, Palawan 223
Arayat, Pampanga 222
Argao, Cebu 226
Aringay, La Union 220
Aroroy, Masbate 224
Asingan, Pangasinan 220
Asturias, Cebu 226
Asuncion, Davao del Norte 230
Atimonan, Quezon 224
Aurora, Isabela 221
Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Ayungon, Negros Oriental 227
Baao, Camarines Sur 224
Babak, Davao del Norte 230
Babatngon, Leyte 227
Bacacay, Albay 224
Bacarra, Ilocos Norte 220
Baclayon, Bohol 226
Bacnotan, La Union 220
Baco, Oriental Mindoro 223
Bacolod Grande, Lanao del Sur 231
Bacolod, Lanao del Norte 230
Bacolor, Pampanga 222
Bacon, Sorsogon 224
Bacong, Negros Oriental 227
Bacoor, Cavite 223
Bacuag, Surigao del Norte 229
Bacungan, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Badian, Cebu 226
Badiangan, Iloilo 225
Badoc, Ilocos Norte 220
Bagac, Bataan 221
Baganga, Davao Oriental 230
Baggao, Cagayan 221
Bagulin, La Union 220
Balabac, Palawan 223
Balabagan, Lanao del Sur 231
Balagtas, Bulacan 221
Balamban, Cebu 226
Balanga, Bataan 221
Balaoan, La Union 220
Balasan, Iloilo 225
Balatan, Camarines Sur 224
Balayan, Batangas 222
Baleno, Masbate 224
Balete, Batangas 222
Baliangao, Misamis Occidental 229
Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Balilihan, Bohol 226
Balindong, Lanao del Sur 231
Balingasag, Misamis Oriental 229
Balingoan, Misamis Oriental 229
Baliuag, Bulacan 221
Ballesteros, Cagayan 221
Baloi, Lanao del Norte 231
Balud, Masbate 224
Balungao, Pangasinan 220
Bamban, Tarlac 222
Banate, Iloilo 225
Banaybanay, Davao Oriental 230
Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur 220
Banga, South Cotabato 230
Bangar, La Union 220
Banguì, Ilocos Norte 220
Bani, Pangasinan 220
Banisilan, North Cotabato 231
Bansalan, Davao del Sur 230
Bansud, Oriental Mindoro 223
Bantay, Ilocos Sur 220
Bantayan, Cebu 226
Baras, Rizal 224
Barauen, Leyte 227
Barcelona, Sorsogon 225
Barili, Cebu 226
Barira, Maguindanao 231
Barobo, Surigao del Sur 230
Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo 225
Barotac Viejo, Iloilo 225
Baroy, Lanao del Norte 231
Barugo, Leyte 227
Basay, Negros Oriental 227
Basey, Samar 228
Basilisa, Surigao del Norte 229
Basista, Pangasinan 220

<i>Batac, Ilocos Norte</i>	220	<i>Brooke's Point, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Batad, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Buadiposo-Buntong, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Batarasa, Palawan</i>	223	<i>Bubong, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Bato, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Buenavista, Agusan del Norte</i>	229
<i>Bato, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Buenavista, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Batuan, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Buenavista, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Batuan, Masbate</i>	224	<i>Buenavista, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Bauan, Batangas</i>	222	<i>Bugallon, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Bauang, La Union</i>	220	<i>Buguey, Cagayan</i>	221
<i>Baungon, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Buhi, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Bautista, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Bula, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Bay, Laguna</i>	223	<i>Bulacan, Bulacan</i>	221
<i>Bayabas, Surigao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Bulalakao, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223
<i>Bayamabang, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Bulan, Sorsogon</i>	225
<i>Bayang, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Buldon, Maguindanao</i>	231
<i>Bayawan, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Bullones, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Baybay, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Buluan, Maguindanao</i>	231
<i>Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Bulusan, Sorsogon</i>	225
<i>Benito Soliven, Isabela</i>	221	<i>Bumbaran, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Bien Unido, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Burdeos, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Bilar, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Burgos, Ilocos Norte</i>	220
<i>Biliran, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Burgos, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Binalbagan, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Burgos, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Binalonan, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Burgos, La Union</i>	220
<i>Biñan, Laguna</i>	223	<i>Burgos, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Binangonan, Rizal</i>	224	<i>Burgos, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Bindoy, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Bustos, Bulacan</i>	221
<i>Bingawan, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Busuanga, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Binidayan, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Butig, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Binmaley, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Buug, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Binuangan, Misamis Oriental</i>	229	<i>Caba, La Union</i>	220
<i>Biri, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte</i>	229
<i>Bislig, Surigao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Cabagan, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Bobon, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Cabangan, Zambales</i>	222
<i>Bocau, Bulacan</i>	221	<i>Cabanglasan, Bukidnon</i>	229
<i>Bogo, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Cabatuan, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Bolinao, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Cabatuan, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Boljoon, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Cabiao, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Bonbon, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Cabucgay, Leyte</i>	227
<i>Bongabon, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223	<i>Cabugao, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Bongabong, Nueva Ecija</i>	222	<i>Cabusao, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental</i>	229	<i>Cabuyao, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Borbon, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Cagayancillo, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Boston, Davao Oriental</i>	230	<i>Cagdianao, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Botolan, Zambales</i>	222	<i>Cagwait, Surigao del Sur</i>	230

- Caibiran, Leyte* 227
Cainta, Rizal 224
Calabanga, Camarines Sur 224
Calaca, Batangas 222
Calamba, Cebu City 226
Calamba, Laguna 223
Calamba, Misamis Occidental 229
Calanogas, Lanao del Sur 231
Calapan, Oriental Mindoro 223
Calape, Bohol 226
Calasiao, Pangasinan 220
Calatagan, Batangas 222
Calatrava, Negros Occidental 225
Calauag, Quezon 224
Calauan, Laguna 223
Calayan, Cagayan 221
Calbiga, Samar 228
Calinog, Iloilo 225
Calubian, Leyte 227
Calumpit, Bulacan 221
Camalaniugan, Cagayan 221
Camalig, Albay 224
Camaligan, Camarines Sur 224
Camiling, Tarlac 222
Canaman, Camarines Sur 224
Candaba, Pampanga 222
Candelaria, Quezon 223
Candelaria, Zambales 222
Candijay, Bohol 226
Candon, Ilocos Sur 220
Candoni, Negros Occidental 225
Cantilan, Surigao del Sur 230
Caoayan, Ilocos Sur 220
Capalong, Davao del Norte 230
Capas, Tarlac 222
Capoocan, Leyte 227
Capul, Northern Samar 227
Caraga, Davao Oriental 230
Caramoan, Camarines Sur 224
Caranglan, Nueva Ecija 222
Carasi, Ilocos Norte 220
Carcar, Cebu 226
Cardona, Rizal 224
Carigara, Leyte 227
Carles, Iloilo 225
Carmen, Agusan del Norte 229
Carmen, Bohol 226
Carmen, Cebu 226
Carmen, Davao del Norte 230
Carmen, North Cotabato 231
Carmen, Surigao del Sur 230
Carmona, Cavite 223
Carrascal, Surigao del Sur 230
Casiguran, Sorsogon 224
Castilla, Sorsogon 224
Castillejos, Zambales 222
Cataingan, Masbate 224
Catanauan, Quezon 223
Catarman, Northern Samar 227
Catbalogan, Samar 228
Cateel, Davao Oriental 230
Catigbian, Bohol 226
Catmon, Cebu 226
Catubig, Northern Samar 227
Cauayan, Isabela 221
Cauayan, Negros Occidental 225
Cavinti, Laguna 223
Cawayan, Masbate 224
Cervantes, Ilocos Sur 220
Clarin, Bohol 226
Clarin, Misamis Occidental 229
Claver, Surigao del Norte 229
Claveria, Cagayan 221
Claveria, Masbate 224
Claveria, Misamis Oriental 229
Compostela, Cebu 226
Compostela, Davao del Norte 230
Concepcion, Iloilo 225
Concepcion, Misamis Occidental 229
Concepcion, Tarlac 222
Consolacion, Cebu 226
Cordon, Isabela 221
Cordova, Cebu 226
Corella, Bohol 226
Coron, Palawan 223
Cortes, Bohol 226
Cortes, Surigao del Sur 230
Cuartero, Capiz 225
Cuenca, Batangas 223
Culaba, Leyte 227

<i>Currimao, Ilocos Norte</i>	220	<i>Dueñas, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija</i>	222	<i>Duero, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Cuyo, Palawan</i>	223	<i>Dulag, Leyte</i>	227
<i>Daan-bantayan, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Dumalag, Capiz</i>	225
<i>Dagami, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Dagohoy, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte</i>	220
<i>Dalaguete, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Dumangas, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Damulog, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Dumanjug, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Danao, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Dumaran, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Dangcagan, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Dumarao, Capiz</i>	225
<i>Dao, Capiz</i>	225	<i>Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Dapa, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>E. Rodriguez, Rizal</i>	224
<i>Daraga, Albay</i>	224	<i>Echague, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Daram, Samar</i>	228	<i>El Nido, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Dasmariñas, Cavite</i>	223	<i>El Salvador, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Dasol, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Enrile, Cagayan</i>	221
<i>Datu Paglas, Maguindanao</i>	231	<i>Enrique B. Magalona, Negros</i>	
<i>Datu Piang, Maguindanao</i>	231	<i>Occidental</i>	225
<i>Dauin, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Escalante, Negros Occidental</i>	225
<i>Dauis, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Esperanza, Masbate</i>	224
<i>Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>Espiritu, Ilocos Norte</i>	220
<i>Del Gallego, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Estancia, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Digos, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Famy, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Dimasalang, Masbate</i>	224	<i>Floridablanca, Pampanga</i>	222
<i>Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Dimiao, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Gainza, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Dinagat, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Dinaig, Maguindanao</i>	231	<i>Gamay, Northern Samar</i>	227
<i>Dinalupihan, Bataan</i>	221	<i>Gamu, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Dinapigui, Isabela</i>	221	<i>Ganassi, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Gandara, Samar</i>	227
<i>Dingle, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Gapan, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Dingras, Ilocos Norte</i>	220	<i>Garchitorena, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Diplahan, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Garcia-Hernandez, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Gattaran, Cagayan</i>	221
<i>Ditsaan-Ramain, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Gen. Luna, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Divilican, Isabela</i>	221	<i>Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite</i>	223
<i>Dolores, Quezon</i>	223	<i>Gen. Nakar, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Don Carlos, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>General Aguinaldo, Cavite</i>	223
<i>Don Marcelino, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>General Luna, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Don Mariano Marcos, Misamis</i>		<i>General Natividad, Nueva Ecija</i>	220
<i>Occidental</i>	229	<i>General Tinio, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Don Mariano Marcos, Zamboanga</i>		<i>General Trias, Cavite</i>	223
<i>del Sur</i>	228	<i>Gerona, Tarlac</i>	222
<i>Donsol, Sorsogon</i>	224	<i>Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte</i>	229

- Ginatilan, Cebu* 226
Gitagum, Misamis Oriental 229
Glan, South Cotabato 230
Gloria, Oriental Mindoro 223
Goa, Camarines Sur 224
Godod, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Gonzaga, Cagayan 221
Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental 230
Gregorio del Pilar, Ilocos Sur 220
Guagua, Pampanga 222
Gubat, Sorsogon 225
Guiguinto, Bulacan 221
Guihulgan, Negros Oriental 227
Guimba, Nueva Ecija 222
Guimbal, Iloilo 225
Guinayangan, Quezon 224
Guindulman, Bohol 226
Guinobatan, Albay 224
Gumaca, Quezon 224
Gutalac, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Hagonoy, Bulacan 221
Hagonoy, Davao del Sur 230
Hermosa, Bataan 221
Hilongos, Leyte 227
Himamaylan, Negros Occidental 225
Hinabangan, Samar 228
Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur 230
Hindang, Leyte 227
Hinigaran, Negros Occidental 225
Hinobaan, Negros Occidental 225
Iba, Zambales 222
Igaras, Iloilo 225
Iguig, Cagayan 221
Ilagan, Isabela 221
Ilog, Negros Occidental 225
Imelda, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Impasugong, Bukidnon 229
Imus, Cavite 223
Inabanga, Bohol 226
Indanan, Sulu 228
Indang, Cavite 223
Infanta, Pangasinan 220
Infanta, Quezon 223
Initao, Misamis Oriental 229
Inopacan, Leyte 227
Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Irosin, Sorsogon 225
Isabel, Leyte 227
Isabela, Negros Occidental 225
Ivisan, Capiz 225
Jabonga, Agusan del Norte 229
Jaen, Nueva Ecija 222
Jagna, Bohol 226
Jala-Jala, Rizal 224
Jamindan, Capiz 225
Janiuay, Iloilo 225
Jaro, Leyte 227
Jasaan, Misamis Oriental 229
Javier, Leyte 227
Jetafe, Bohol 226
Jiabong, Samar 228
Jimalalud, Negros Oriental 227
Jimenez, Misamis Occidental 229
Jolo, Sulu 228
Jones, Isabela 221
Jordan, Iloilo 225
Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur 230
Josefina, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Jovellar, Albay 224
Juban, Sorsogon 225
Julita, Leyte 227
Jumalig, Quezon 223
K. Caluang, Sulu 228
Kabacan, North Cotabato 231
Kabankalan, Negros Occidental 225
Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Kabuntalan, Maguindanao 231
Kadingilan, Bukidnon 229
Kalayaan, Laguna 223
Kalayaan, Palawan 223
Kalilangan, Bukidnon 229
Kananga, Leyte 227
Kapai, Lanao del Sur 231
Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte 231
Kapatagan, Lanao del Sur 231
Kaputian, Davao del Norte 230
Karomatan, Lanao del Norte 231
Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte 230
Kawayan, Leyte 227

<i>Kawit, Cavite</i>	223	<i>Lian, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Kiamba, South Cotabato</i>	230	<i>Lianga, Surigao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Kibawe, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Libertad, Misamis Oriental</i>	227
<i>Kiblawan, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Libjo, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Kidapawan, North Cotabato</i>	231	<i>Libmanan, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Kinogitan, Misamis Oriental</i>	229	<i>Libon, Albay</i>	224
<i>Kitaotao, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Libona, Bukidnon</i>	229
<i>Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte</i>	229	<i>Libungan, North Cotabato</i>	231
<i>Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte</i>	230	<i>Licab, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Koronadal, South Cotabato</i>	230	<i>Lidlidda, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Ligao, Albay</i>	224
<i>La Carlota, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Lila, Bohol</i>	226
<i>La Castellana, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Liliw, Laguna</i>	223
<i>La Libertad, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Liloan, Cebu</i>	226
<i>La Libertad, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Liloay, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228
<i>La Paz, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Limay, Bataan</i>	221
<i>Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Linamon, Lanao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Labason, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Linapacan, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Labrador, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Lingayen, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Lagonglong, Misamis Oriental</i>	229	<i>Lingig, Surigao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Lagonoy, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Llanera, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental</i>	229	<i>Loay, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Lake Sebu, South Cotabato</i>	230	<i>Lobo, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Loboc, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Lala, Lanao del Norte</i>	231	<i>Loon, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Lallo, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>Lope de Vega, Northern Samar</i>	227
<i>Lambunao, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occidental</i>	229
<i>Lantapan, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>Lopez, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Lanuzá, Surigao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Loreto, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Laoac, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Los Baños, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Laoang, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Lubao, Pampanga</i>	222
<i>La Paz, Tarlac</i>	222	<i>Lucban, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Lapinig, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Lugait, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Lugus, Sulu</i>	228
<i>Las Navas, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Luisiana, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte</i>	229	<i>Lumba-Bayabao, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Lasam, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>Lumban, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Laur, Nueva Ecija</i>	221	<i>Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Laurel, Batangas</i>	222	<i>Lumbayanague, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Lavezares, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Luna, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Leganes, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Luna, La Union</i>	220
<i>Lemery, Batangas</i>	222	<i>Lupao, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Lemery, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Lupi, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Leon, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Lupon, Davao Oriental</i>	230
<i>Leyte, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Luuk, Sulu</i>	228

- M'lang, North Cotabato* 231
Maasin, South Cotabato 230
Maasin, Iloilo 225
Ma-ayon, Capiz 225
Mabalacat, Pampanga 222
Mabinay, Negros Oriental 227
Mabini, Batangas 222
Mabini, Bohol 226
Mabini, Davao del Norte 229
Mabini, Pangasinan 220
Mabitac, Laguna 223
Mabuhay, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Macabebe, Pampanga 222
Macalelon, Quezon 223
Mac-Arthur, Leyte 227
Maco, Davao del Norte 230
Maconacon, Isabela 221
Madalum, Lanao del Sur 231
Madamba, Lanao del Sur 231
Madrid, Surigao del Sur 230
Madridejos, Cebu 226
Magalang, Pampanga 222
Magallanes, Agusan del Norte 229
Magallanes, Cavite 223
Magallanes, Sorsogon 224
Maganoy, Maguindanao 231
Magarao, Camarines Sur 224
Magdalena, Laguna 223
Magpet, North Cotabato 231
Magsaysay, Davao del Sur 230
Magsaysay, Lanao del Norte 231
Magsaysay, Misamis Oriental 229
Magsaysay, Palawan 223
Magsingal, Ilocos Sur 220
Maguing, Lanao del Sur 231
Mahaplag, Leyte 227
Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Maigo, Lanao del Norte 230
Maimbung, Sulu 228
Mainit, Surigao del Norte 229
Maitum, South Cotabato 230
Majayjay, Laguna 223
Makilala, North Cotabato 231
Malabang, Lanao del Sur 231
Malabuyoc, Cebu 226
Malalag, Davao del Sur 229
Malangas, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Malapatan, South Cotabato 229
Malasiqui, Pangasinan 220
Malaybalay, Bukidnon 229
Malilipot, Albay 223
Malimono, Surigao del Norte 229
Malinao, Albay 223
Malita, Davao del Sur 230
Malitbog, Bukidnon 229
Mallig, Isabela 221
Malolos, Bulacan 221
Malungon, South Cotabato 230
Malvar, Batangas 222
Mambusao, Capiz 225
Manaoag, Pangasinan 220
Manapla, Negros Occidental 225
Manay, Davao Oriental 230
Mandaon, Masbate 224
Mangaldan, Pangasinan 220
Mangatarem, Pangasinan 220
Manito, Albay 224
Manjuyod, Negros Oriental 227
Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon 229
Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro 223
Manticao, Misamis Oriental 229
Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Mapanas, Northern Samar 227
Mapandan, Pangasinan 220
Marabut, Samar 228
Maragondon, Cavite 223
Maramag, Bukidnon 229
Marantao, Lanao del Sur 231
Marcos, Ilocos Norte 220
Marcos, Palawan 223
Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Maribojoc, Bohol 226
Marihatag, Surigao del Sur 230
Marilao, Bulacan 221
Maripipi, Leyte 227
Mariveles, Bataan 221
Maragong, Lanao del Sur 231
Marungas, Sulu 228
Masantol, Pampanga 222
Masbate, Masbate 224

<i>Masinloc, Zambales</i>	222	<i>Munai, Lanao del Norte</i>	231
<i>Masiu, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Muñoz, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas</i>	223	<i>Murcia, Negros Occidental</i>	225
<i>Matagob, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Mutia, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228
<i>Matalam, North Cotabato</i>	231	<i>Naawan, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Matalom, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Nabua, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Matanao, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Nabunturan, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Matanog, Maguindanao</i>	231	<i>Naga, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Mati, Davao Oriental</i>	230	<i>Naga, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Matnog, Sorsogon</i>	225	<i>Nagbukel, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Matuguinao, Samar</i>	227	<i>Nagcarlan, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Matungao, Lanao del Norte</i>	231	<i>Naguilian, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Mauban, Quezon</i>	223	<i>Naguilian, La Union</i>	220
<i>Mawab, Davao del Norte</i>	230	<i>Naic, Cavite</i>	223
<i>Mayantoc, Tarlac</i>	222	<i>Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Mayorga, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Narra, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Medellin, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Narvacan, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Medina, Misamis Oriental</i>	229	<i>Nasipit, Agusan del Norte</i>	229
<i>Mendez-Núñez, Cavite</i>	223	<i>Nasugbu, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Merida, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Natividad, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Mexico, Pampanga</i>	222	<i>Naujan, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223
<i>Meycauayan, Bulacan</i>	221	<i>Naval, Leyte</i>	227
<i>Miag-ao, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>New Bataan, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>New Corella, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Midsayap, North Cotabato</i>	231	<i>New Lucena, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Milagros, Masbate</i>	224	<i>New Panamao, Sulu</i>	228
<i>Milaor, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Norala, South Cotabato</i>	230
<i>Mina, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Norzagaray, Bulacan</i>	221
<i>Minalabac, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Noveleta, Cavite</i>	223
<i>Minalin, Pampanga</i>	222	<i>Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte</i>	220
<i>Minglanilla, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Nueva Valencia, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Moalboal, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Nunungan, Lanao del Norte</i>	231
<i>Mobo, Masbate</i>	224	<i>Oas, Albay</i>	224
<i>Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Obando, Bulacan</i>	221
<i>Molave, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>Ocampo, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Molundo, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Olutanga, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Moncada, Tarlac</i>	222	<i>Opol, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Moncayo, Davao del Norte</i>	230	<i>Orani, Bataan</i>	221
<i>Mondragon, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Orion, Bataan</i>	221
<i>Monreal, Masbate</i>	224	<i>Oslob, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Montevista, Davao del Norte</i>	230	<i>Oton, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Morong, Bataan</i>	221	<i>Padada, Davao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Morong, Rizal</i>	224	<i>Padre Burgos, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Motiong, Samar</i>	228	<i>Padre Garcia, Batangas</i>	223
<i>Mulanay, Quezon</i>	223	<i>Paete, Laguna</i>	223

- Pagalungan, Maguindanao* 231
Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur 231
Pagbilao, Quezon 223
Pagsanghan, Samar 227
Pagsanjan, Laguna 223
Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte 220
Pakil, Laguna 223
Palanan, Isabela 221
Palanas, Masbate 224
Palapag, Northern Samar 227
Palauig, Zambales 222
Palo, Leyte 227
Palompon, Leyte 227
Pambuyan, Northern Samar 227
Pamplona, Cagayan 221
Pamplona, Camarines Sur 224
Pamplona, Negros Oriental 227
Panabo, Davao del Norte 230
Panamao, Sulu 228
Panaon, Misamis Occidental 229
Panay, Capiz 225
Pandami, Sulu 228
Pandi, Bulacan 221
Pangantocan, Bukidnon 229
Pangil, Laguna 223
Panglao, Bohol 226
Pangutaran, Sulu 228
Paniqui, Tarlac 222
Panitan, Capiz 225
Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija 222
Pantao-Ragat, Lanao del Norte 231
Pantar, Lanao del Norte 231
Pantukan, Davao del Norte 230
Panukulan, Quezon 223
Paoay, Ilocos Norte 220
Paombong, Bulacan 221
Parang, Maguindanao 231
Parang, Sulu 228
Pasacao, Camarines Sur 224
Passi, Iloilo 225
Pastrana, Leyte 227
Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte 220
Pata, Sulu 228
Patikul, Sulu 228
Patnanungan, Quezon 223
Pavia, Iloilo 225
Payao, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Peñablanca, Cagayan 221
Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija 222
Perez, Quezon 224
Piagapo, Lanao del Sur 231
Piat, Cagayan 221
Piddig, Ilocos Norte 220
Pigkawayan, North Cotabato 231
Pikit, North Cotabato 231
Pila, Laguna 223
Pilar, Bataan 221
Pilar, Bohol 226
Pilar, Capiz 225
Pilar, Cebu 226
Pilar, Sorsogon 224
Pilar, Surigao del Norte 229
Pili, Camarines Sur 224
Pillilla, Rizal 224
Pinabacdao, Samar 228
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro 223
Pinamungajan, Cebu 226
Pinili, Ilocos Norte 220
Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Pio Duran, Albay 224
Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate 224
Pitogo, Quezon 223
Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Placer, Masbate 224
Placer, Surigao del Norte 229
Plaridel, Bulacan 221
Plaridel, Misamis Occidental 229
Plaridel, Quezon 224
Pola, Oriental Mindoro 223
Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Polangui, Albay 224
Polilio, Quezon 223
Polomolok, South Cotabato 230
Ponot, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Pontevedra, Capiz 225
Pontevedra, Negros Occidental 225
Poona-Bayabao, Lanao del Sur 231
Poona-Piagapo, Lanao del Norte 231
Porac, Pampanga 222
Poro, Cebu 226

<i>Pototan, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Roxas, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223
<i>Pozorrubio, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Roxas, Palawan</i>	223
<i>Praxedes, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>S. Benedicto, Negros Occidental</i>	225
<i>Pres. C. P. Garcia, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Sagay, Negros Occidental</i>	225
<i>Pres. Manuel A. Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sagbayan, Bohol</i>	226
<i>Pres. Roxas, North Cotabato</i>	231	<i>Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Presentacion, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Salay, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>President Roxas, Capiz</i>	225	<i>Salcedo, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon</i>	225	<i>Salug, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228
<i>Pualas, Lanao del Sur</i>	231	<i>Salvador, Lanao del Norte</i>	231
<i>Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223	<i>Samal, Bataan</i>	221
<i>Pugo, La Union</i>	220	<i>Samal, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Pulilan, Bulacan</i>	221	<i>Samboan, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Pulupandan, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Sampaloc, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Pura, Tarlac</i>	222	<i>San Agustin, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Quezon, Bukidnon</i>	229	<i>San Agustin, Surigao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Quezon, Isabela</i>	221	<i>San Andres, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Quezon, Nueva Ecija</i>	222	<i>San Antonio, Northern Samar</i>	227
<i>Quezon, Palawan</i>	223	<i>San Antonio, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Quezon, Quezon</i>	224	<i>San Antonio, Quezon</i>	223
<i>Quirino, Ilocos Sur</i>	220	<i>San Antonio, Zambales</i>	222
<i>Quirino, Isabela</i>	221	<i>San Benito, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>R. Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>San Clemente, Tarlac</i>	222
<i>Ragay, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>San Dionisio, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Ramon, Isabela</i>	221	<i>San Emilio, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Ramos, Tarlac</i>	221	<i>San Enrique, Iloilo</i>	225
<i>Rapu-Rapu, Albay</i>	223	<i>San Enrique, Negros Occidental</i>	225
<i>Real, Quezon</i>	223	<i>San Esteban, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Reina Mercedes, Isabela</i>	221	<i>San Fabian, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan</i>	221	<i>San Felipe, Zambales</i>	222
<i>Remedios T. Romualdez, Agusan del Norte</i>	229	<i>San Fernando, Bukidnon</i>	229
<i>Rizal, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>San Fernando, Camarines Sur</i>	224
<i>Rizal, Laguna</i>	223	<i>San Fernando, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Rizal, Nueva Ecija</i>	222	<i>San Fernando, La Union</i>	220
<i>Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>San Fernando, Masbate</i>	224
<i>Ronda, Cebu</i>	226	<i>San Fernando, Pampanga</i>	222
<i>Rosales, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>San Francisco, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Rosario, Batangas</i>	223	<i>San Francisco, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Rosario, Cavite</i>	223	<i>San Francisco, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Rosario, La Union</i>	220	<i>San Gabriel, La Union</i>	220
<i>Rosario, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>San Guillermo, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Roseller Lim, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228	<i>San Ildefonso, Bulacan</i>	221
<i>Roxas, Isabela</i>	221	<i>San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
		<i>San Isidro, Bohol</i>	226
		<i>San Isidro, Davao Oriental</i>	230

- San Isidro, Isabela* 221
San Isidro, Leyte 227
San Isidro, Northern Samar 227
San Isidro, Nueva Ecija 222
San Isidro, Surigao del Norte 229
San Jacinto, Masbate 224
San Jacinto, Pangasinan 220
San Joaquin, Iloilo 225
San Jorge, Samar 228
San Jose de Buan, Samar 228
San Jose del Monte, Bulacan 221
San Jose, Batangas 223
San Jose, Camarines Sur 224
San Jose, Negros Oriental 227
San Jose, Northern Samar 227
San Juan, Batangas 223
San Juan, Ilocos Sur 220
San Juan, La Union 220
San Juan, Metro Manila 219
San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija 222
San Luis, Batangas 222
San Luis, Pampanga 222
San Manuel, Isabela 221
San Manuel, Pangasinan 220
San Manuel, Tarlac 222
San Marcelino, Zambales 222
San Mariano, Davao del Norte 230
San Mariano, Isabela 221
San Mateo, Isabela 220
San Mateo, Rizal 224
San Miguel, Bohol 226
San Miguel, Bulacan 221
San Miguel, Iloilo 224
San Miguel, Leyte 226
San Miguel, Surigao del Sur 230
San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur 228
San Narciso, Quezon 224
San Narciso, Zambales 222
San Nicolas, Batangas 222
San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte 220
San Nicolas, Pangasinan 220
San Pablo, Isabela 221
San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur 228
San Pascual, Batangas 222
San Pascual, Masbate 224

San Pedro, Laguna 223
San Quintin, Pangasinan 220
San Rafael, Bulacan 221
San Rafael, Iloilo 225
San Remigio, Cebu 226
San Roque, Northern Samar 227
San Sebastian, Samar 228
San Simon, Pampanga 222
San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro 223
San Vicente, Davao del Norte 230
San Vicente, Ilocos Sur 220
San Vicente, Northern Samar 227
San Vicente, Palawan 223
Sanchez Mira, Cagayan 221
Sangay, Camarines Sur 224
Santa Catalina, Ilocos Sur 220
Santa Cruz, Ilocos Sur 220
Santa Lucia, Ilocos Sur 220
Santa Margarita, Samar 228
Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur 220
Santa, Ilocos Sur 220
Santander, Cebu 226
Santiago, Agusan del Norte 229
Santiago, Ilocos Sur 220
Santiago, Isabela 221
Santo Domingo, Albay 224
Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur 220
Santo Tomas, La Union 220
Santol, La Union 220
Sapad, Lanao del Norte 231
Sapang Dalaga, Misamis Occidental 229
Sapian, Capiz 225
Sara, Iloilo 225
Saranggani, Davao del Sur 230
Sariaya, Quezon 223
Sarrat, Ilocos Norte 220
Sergio Osmeña, Sr., Zamboanga del Norte 228
Sevilla, Bohol 226
Sexmoan, Pampanga 222
Siasi, Sulu 228
Siaton, Negros Oriental 227
Siay, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte 227
Sibongan, Cebu 226

<i>Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sta. Rita, Samar</i>	228
<i>Sibulan, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Sta. Rosa, Laguna</i>	223
<i>Sibutad, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Sierra, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Sta. Teresita, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Sigay, Ilocos Sur</i>	220	<i>Sta. Teresita, Cagayan</i>	221
<i>Sigma, Capiz</i>	225	<i>Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija</i>	222
<i>Sikatuna, Bohol</i>	226	<i>Sto. Niño, Cagayan</i>	221
<i>Silang, Cavite</i>	223	<i>Sto. Niño, Samar</i>	228
<i>Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar</i>	227	<i>Sto. Niño, South Cotabato</i>	230
<i>Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental</i>	229	<i>Sto. Tomas, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Sinait, Ilocos Sur</i>	220	<i>Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sto. Tomas, Isabela</i>	221
<i>Siniloan, Laguna</i>	223	<i>Sto. Tomas, Pampanga</i>	222
<i>Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Sipalay, Negros Occidental</i>	225	<i>Sual, Pangasinan</i>	220
<i>Sipocot, Camarines Sur</i>	224	<i>Subic, Zambales</i>	222
<i>Siraway, Zamboanga del Norte</i>	228	<i>Sudipen, La Union</i>	220
<i>Sison, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Sugbongcogon, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Sison, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>Sugpon, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Socorro, Oriental Mindoro</i>	223	<i>Sulop, Davao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Socorro, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>Sultan Gumander, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Sogod, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao</i>	231
<i>Solana, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao</i>	231
<i>Solsona, Ilocos Norte</i>	220	<i>Sumilao, Bukidnon</i>	229
<i>Sorsogon, Sorsogon</i>	224	<i>Surallah, South Cotabato</i>	230
<i>South Upi, Maguindanao</i>	231	<i>Suyo, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Sta. Ana, Cagayan</i>	221	<i>Taal, Batangas</i>	222
<i>Sta. Ana, Pampanga</i>	222	<i>Tabaco, Albay</i>	224
<i>Sta. Barbara, Iloilo</i>	225	<i>Tabango, Leyte</i>	227
<i>Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur</i>	228
<i>Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental</i>	227	<i>Tabogon, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Tabontabon, Leyte</i>	227
<i>Sta. Cruz, Laguna</i>	223	<i>Tabuelan, Cebu</i>	226
<i>Sta. Cruz, Zambales</i>	222	<i>Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte</i>	229
<i>Sta. Fe, Cebu</i>	226	<i>Tagapul-an, Samar</i>	228
<i>Sta. Fe, Leyte</i>	227	<i>Tagbina, Surigao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac</i>	222	<i>Tagkawayan, Quezon</i>	224
<i>Sta. Magdalena, Sorsogon</i>	225	<i>Tago, Surigao del Sur</i>	230
<i>Sta. Maria, Bulacan</i>	221	<i>Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur</i>	230	<i>Tagoloan, Lanao del Sur</i>	231
<i>Sta. Maria, Isabela</i>	221	<i>Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental</i>	229
<i>Sta. Maria, Laguna</i>	223	<i>Tagudin, Ilocos Sur</i>	220
<i>Sta. Maria, Pangasinan</i>	220	<i>Tagum, Davao del Norte</i>	230
<i>Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte</i>	229	<i>Talakag, Bukidnon</i>	229
<i>Sta. Rita, Pampanga</i>	222	<i>Talalora, Samar</i>	227

- Talavera, Nueva Ecija* 222
Talayan, Maguindanao 230
Talibon, Bohol 226
Talipao, Sulu 228
Talisay, Batangas 222
Talisay, Cebu 226
Talisay, Negros Occidental 225
Talisayan, Misamis Oriental 229
Talugtog, Nueva Ecija 222
Talusan, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Tambulig, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Tampakan, South Cotabato 230
Tamparan, Lanao del Sur 231
Tampilisan, Zamboanga del Norte 228
Tanauan, Batangas 222
Tanauan, Leyte 227
Tanay, Rizal 224
Tandag, Surigao del Sur 230
Tangkal, Lanao del Norte 231
Tanjay, Negros Oriental 226
Tantangán, South Cotabato 230
Tanza, Cavite 223
Tapaz, Capiz 225
Tapul, Sulu 228
Taraka, Lanao del Sur 230
Tarangnan, Samar 228
Tarlac, Tarlac 222
Tarragona, Davao Oriental 230
Tayabas, Quezon 223
Tayasan, Negros Oriental 227
Taysan, Batangas 223
Taytay, Palawan 223
Taytay, Rizal 224
Tayug, Pangasinan 220
Teresa, Rizal 223
Ternate, Cavite 223
Tiaong, Quezon 223
Tiboli, South Cotabato 229
Tigaon, Camarines Sur 224
Tigbauan, Iloilo 225
Tinambac, Camarines Sur 224
Tingloy, Batangas 222
Titay, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Tiwi, Albay 224
Toboso, Negros Occidental 225
Tolosa, Leyte 227
Tongkil, Sulu 228
Trinidad, Bohol 226
Tuao, Cagayan 221
Tubajon, Surigao del Norte 229
Tubao, La Union 220
Tubaran, Lanao del Sur 231
Tubay, Agusan del Norte 229
Tubigon, Bohol 226
Tubod, Lanao del Norte 230
Tubod, Surigao del Norte 229
Tubungan, Iloilo 225
Tuburan, Cebu 226
Tudela, Cebu 226
Tudela, Misamis Occidental 229
Tugaya, Lanao del Sur 231
Tuguegarao, Cagayan 221
Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Tulunan, North Cotabato 231
Tumauni, Isabela 221
Tunga, Leyte 227
Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Tupi, South Cotabato 229
Tuy, Batangas 222
Ubay, Bohol 226
Umingan, Pangasinan 220
Unisan, Quezon 224
Upi, Maguindanao 231
Urbiztondo, Pangasinan 220
Urdaneta, Pangasinan 220
Uson, Masbate 224
Valencia, Bohol 226
Valencia, Bukidnon 229
Valencia, Negros Oriental 227
Valladolid, Negros Occidental 225
Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental 227
Victoria, Laguna 223
Victoria, Northern Samar 227
Victoria, Oriental Mindoro 223
Victoria, Tarlac 222
Victorias, Negros Occidental 225
Vigan, Ilocos Sur 219
Villaba, Leyte 227
Villanueva, Misamis Oriental 229
Villareal, Samar 228

Villasis, Pangasinan 220
Vincenzo A. Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur 228
Vintar, Ilocos Norte 220
Wao, Lanao del Sur 231
Wright, Samar 228
Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental 227
Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija 222
Zarraga, Iloilo 225
Zumarraga, Samar 228
Muntinlupa 219

N
NEDA *SEE National Economic Development Authority*
NGOs *SEE Non-Governmental Organizations*

Naga City, Camarines Sur 224
Naga, Municipality of
Cebu 226
Zamboanga del Sur 228
Naguilian, Municipality of
Isabela 221
La Union 220
National development 144, 159, 193, 194
National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) 194
National economy 145, 191
National emergency 157, 196, 209
National heroes 203
National Language Commission 205
National parks 192, 193
National police commission 209
National territory 143, 144
National Treasurer 157
Nationalism 145, 203
Natural-born citizens 150, 175, 181, 188, 200
Natural resources 186, 191, 192, 198, 210
Exploration
Agreements with Filipino citizens, corporations or associations 192
State ownership 191
Naturalized citizens 150
Navotas 219

Nays 155, 158, 159
Negros Occidental
1st district 225
2nd district 225
3rd district 225
4th district 225
5th district 225
6th district 225
Negros Oriental
1st district 227
2nd district 227
3rd district 227
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) 146, 184
North Cotabato
1st district 231
2nd district 231
Northern Samar
1st district 227
2nd district 227
Nuclear weapons 144
Nueva Ecija
1st district 222
2nd district 222
3rd district 222
4th district 222
Nueva Vizcaya 221

O
Obligation of contracts 148
Occidental Mindoro 223
Office of the Ombudsman 165, 188, 189, 190
Composition 188
Creation 188
Fiscal autonomy 190
Functions 189
Office of the Special Prosecutor 188
Powers and duties 189
Protectors of the people 189
Qualifications and requirements 188
Tanodbayan 188
Term of office 188, 189
Office of the Special Prosecutor 188; *SEE ALSO* Ombudsman; Tanodbayan

Olongapo City, Zambales 222

Ombudsman

Tanodbayan 188

Ordinance

Apportionment of seats of different legislative districts in provinces and cities
217-232

Commission on Elections 231

Metropolitan Manila Area 217-219

Region I 220

Region II 221

Region III 221-222

Region IV 222-224

Region V 224-225

Region VI 225

Region VII 226-227

Region VIII 227-228

Region IX 228

Region X 229

Region XI 230

Region XII 230-231

Organic Acts 185

Autonomous regions

Legislative powers 185-186

Oriental Mindoro

1st District 223

2nd District 223

Ormoc City, Leyte 227

Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental 229

Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental 229

P

Padre Burgos, Municipality of 224

Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur 228

Palayan City, Nueva Ecija 222

Palawan

1st District 223

2nd District 223

Pampanga

1st District 222

2nd District 222

3rd District 222

4th District 222

Pamplona, Municipality of

Cagayan 221

Camarines Sur 224

Negros Oriental 227

Pangasinan

1st District 220

2nd District 220

3rd District 220

4th District 220

5th District 220

6th District 220

Parang, Municipality of

Maguindanao 231

Sulu 228

Parañaque 219

Parents

Duties 145

Rights 145

Party-List 180

Proportional representation 155

Representatives 152

System 155

Pasay City 219

Pasig 219

Pateros 219

Patrimony 143, 191, 194

Patriotism 145

Peace and order

Autonomous regions 186

People's Organizations

Rights 200

Roles 200

Persons with disabilities

Right to suffrage 151

Petroleum 191, 192

Philippines, Republic of

Flag 208

Foreign loans 167

Name 208

National anthem 208

Pilar, Municipality of

Bataan 221

Bohol 226

Capiz 225

Cebu 226

Sorsogon 224

- Surigao del Norte* 229
- Pitogo, Municipality of**
- Quezon* 223
- Zamboanga del Sur* 228
- Placer, Municipality of**
- Masbate* 224
- Surigao del Norte* 229
- Plaridel, Municipality of**
- Bulacan* 221
- Misamis Occidental* 229
- Quezon* 224
- Plebiscite** 177, 179, 180, 184, 185, 211, 216, 232
- Police**
- Authority of local executives over the police units* 209
- National police commission* 209
- Political campaigns**
- Political candidates**
- Political dynasties**
- Prohibition* 146
- Political parties** 155, 156, 178, 180
- Political subdivisions** 182
- Creation* 184
- Poll watching **SEE** Election monitoring
- Pontevedra, Municipality of**
- Capiz* 225
- Negros Occidental* 225
- Poor**
- Free medical care* 199
- Population**
- Adjustments of the reapportionment of legislative districts* 231
- Preamble** 143
- President**
- Address the Congress* 168
- Appointments* 166
- as Commander-in-Chief* 166
- Assumption of office* 162
- Budget of expenditures* 168
- Compensation* 162
- Conflict of interest* 165
- Contracts entered into* 192
- Death* 163
- Election** 161
- Qualifications and requirements* 160
- Ineligibility for reelection* 161
- Executive power* 160
- General supervision over local governments* 183
- Impeachment* 187
- National emergency* 157
- Oath* 162
- Official residence* 162
- Permanent disability* 163
- Power to grant amnesty* 167
- Power to veto* 159
- Powers and duties* 166-167
- Relatives by consanguinity or affinity* 165
- Removal from office* 160, 163
- Report to Congress* 166
- Resignation* 163
- Spouse* 165
- Status of health* 165
- Term of office* 161
- President, Acting** 162, 163
- Oath* 162
- President, Incumbent**
- Illness* 165
- Ineligibility for Reelection* 161
- Official residence* 162
- Presidential Committee on Human Rights; SEE ALSO** Committee on Human Rights
- Priest** 159
- Principles** 143
- Private lands** 193, 194
- Private properties** 148
- Proclamation No. 3 s. 1986** 214
- Professions**
- Practice* 195
- Provinces**
- Creation* 184
- Sub-province* 213
- Public accountability** 176
- Officers and employees* 186
- Public office** 186
- Public officers and employees**
- Accountability* 186
- Allegiance to the State and Constitution* 191

Declaration of assets, liabilities and net worth 190

Investigation 189

Removal from office 186, 189

Public service **SEE** Civil service

Public trust 186

Public utilities

Equity participation 195

Puerto Princesa City, Palawan 223

Q

Quasi-judicial bodies

Free access 148

Quezon

1st district 223

2nd district 223

3rd district 223-224

4th district 224

Quezon City

1st district 218

2nd district 219

3rd district 219

4th district 219

Quezon, Municipality of

Bukidnon 229

Isabela 221

Nueva Ecija 222

Palawan 223

Quezon 224

Quirino 221

Quirino, Municipality of

Ilocos Sur 220

Isabela 221

Quorum 155

R

Ramon Magsaysay, Barangay (Quezon City)
218

Recess 166

Reclusion perpetua 148, 149, 170

Referendum 151, 160, 177, 179, 183, 208,
216

Region I

Abra 220

Benguet 220

Ilocos Norte 220

Ilocos Sur 220

La Union 220

Mountain Province 220

Pangasinan 220

Region II

Batanes 221

Cagayan 221

Ifugao 221

Isabela 221

Kalinga-Apayao 221

Nueva Vizcaya 221

Quirino 221

Region III

Bataan 221

Bulacan 221

Nueva Ecija 222

Pampanga 222

Tarlac 222

Zambales 222

Region IV

Aurora 222

Batangas 222-223

Cavite 223

Laguna 223

Marinduque 223

Occidental Mindoro 223

Oriental Mindoro 223

Palawan 223

Quezon 223-224

Rizal 224

Romblon 224

Region V

Albay 224

Camarines Norte 224

Camarines Sur 224

Catanduanes 224

Masbate 224

Sorsogon 224-225

Region VI

Aklan 225

Antique 225

Bacolod City 225

- Capiz* 225
Iloilo 225
Iloilo City 225
Negros Occidental 225
- Region VII**
- Bohol* 226
Cebu 226
Cebu City 226-227
Negros Oriental 227
Siquijor 227
- Region VIII**
- Eastern Samar* 227
Leyte 227
Northern Samar 227
Samar 227
Southern Leyte 227
- Region IX**
- Basilan* 228
Sulu 228
Tawi-Tawi 228
Zamboanga City 228
Zamboanga del Norte 228
Zamboanga del Sur 228
- Region X**
- Agusan del Norte* 229
Agusan del Sur 229
Bukidnon 229
Cagayan De Oro City 229
Camiguin 229
Misamis Occidental 229
Misamis Oriental 229
Surigao del Norte 229
- Region XI**
- Davao City* 230
Davao del Norte 230
Davao del Sur 230
Davao Oriental 230
South Cotabato 230
Surigao del Sur 230
- Region XII**
- Lanao del Norte* 230
Lanao del Sur 231
Maguindanao 231
North Cotabato 231
Sultan Kudarat 231
- Regional Development Councils** 184
Religion
Freedom to exercise 147
Reorganization
Proclamation No. 3 s. 1986 214, 215
 Resettlement **SEE** Land settlement
Resources, Fishing 198, 199
Revisions 211
Right to remain silent 148
Rizal, Municipality of
Cagayan 221
Laguna 223
Nueva Ecija 222
Zamboanga del Norte 228
Romblon 224
Rosario, Municipality of
Batangas 223
Cavite 223
La Union 220
Northern Samar 227
Roxas City, Capiz 225
Roxas, Municipality of
Isabela 221
Oriental Mindoro 223
Palawan 223
Rural development 146
- S**
- SALN **SEE** Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth
Samal, Municipality of
Bataan 221
Davao del Norte 230
Samar
1st district 227-228
2nd district 228
San Agustin, Municipality of
Isabela 221
Surigao del Sur 230
San Antonio, Municipality of
Northern Samar 227
Nueva Ecija 222
Quezon 223

- Zambales* 222
- San Carlos City, Negros Occidental** 225
- San Enrique, Municipality of**
Iloilo 225
Negros Occidental 225
- San Fernando, Municipality of**
Bukidnon 229
Camarines Sur 224
Cebu 226
La Union 220
Masbate 224
Pampanga 222
- San Francisco, Municipality of**
Cebu 226
Quezon 224
Surigao del Norte 229
- San Ildefonso, Municipality**
Bulacan 221
Ilocos Sur 220
- San Isidro, Municipality of**
Bohol 226
Davao Oriental 230
Isabela 221
Leyte 227
Northern Samar 227
Nueva Ecija 222
Surigao del Norte 229
- San Jacinto, Municipality of**
Masbate 224
Pangasinan 220
- San Jose City, Nueva Ecija** 222
- San Jose, Municipality of**
Batangas 223
Camarines Sur 224
Negros Oriental 227
Northern Samar 227
- San Juan, Municipality of**
Batangas 223
Ilocos Sur 220
La Union 220
- San Juan City, Metro Manila** 219
- San Luis, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Pampanga 222
- San Manuel, Municipality of**
Isabela 221
Pangasinan 220
Tarlac 222
- San Mariano, Municipality of**
Davao del Norte 230
Isabela 221
- San Mateo, Municipality of**
Isabela 221
Rizal 224
- San Miguel, Municipality of**
Bohol 226
Bulacan 221
Iloilo 225
Leyte 227
Surigao del Sur 230
Zamboanga del Sur 228
- San Narciso, Municipality**
Quezon 224
Zambales 222
- San Nicolas, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Ilocos Norte 220
Pangasinan 220
- San Pablo City, Laguna** 223
- San Pablo, Municipality of**
Isabela 221
Zamboanga del Sur 228
- San Pascual, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Masbate 224
- San Rafael, Municipality of**
Bulacan 221
Iloilo 225
- San Vicente, Municipality of**
Davao del Norte 230
Ilocos Sur 220
Northern Samar 227
Palawan 223
- Sandiganbayan** 187
- Santiago, Municipality of**
Agusan del Norte 229
Ilocos Sur 220
Isabela 221
- Santo Domingo, Municipality of**
Albay 224

- Ilocos Sur* 220
- Scholarships** 203, 206, 207
- Schools** 203, 204
- Science and Technology** 206
 - Intellectual property* 206
 - Research and development**
 - Incentives* 206
 - Scholarships* 206
 - Student aid* 206
- Scientists** 195, 206
- Senate of the Philippines**
 - Bills**
 - Propose or concur with amendments* 157
 - Composition* 151
 - Convening of both houses* 154
 - Electoral Tribunal* 154, 155, 156
 - Impeachment trial** 187
 - Oath or affirmation* 187
 - Journal of Proceedings* 155
 - President** 154
 - As Acting President of the Philippines* 162, 163
 - Record of Proceedings* 155
 - Rules of Procedure**
 - Impeachment proceedings* 187
 - Inquiries in aid of legislation* 156
 - Rules of Proceedings* 155
- Senate President**
 - As Acting President of the Philippines* 162-163
- Senators**
 - Election**
 - Qualifications and requirements* 152
 - Special* 153
 - Full disclosure of assets and net worth* 154
 - Immunities* 202
 - Nominated for Vice President* 163
 - Salaries, etc.* 153, 214
 - Term of office* 152
 - Vacancy* 153
- Separation of Church and State** 144
- Sequestration** 216
 - Proclamation No. 3 s. 1986* 216
- Servitude**
 - Involuntary* 149
- Silay City, Negros Occidental** 225
- Siquijor** 227
- Sison, Municipality of**
 - Pangasinan* 220
 - Surigao del Norte* 229
- Social justice** 144
 - Cooperatives* 195
 - Promotion* 197
- Social Justice and Human Rights**
 - Agrarian and Natural Resources Reform* 198-199
 - Health* 199-200
 - Human Rights* 200-202
 - Labor* 197
 - Role and Rights of People's Organizations* 200
 - Urban Land Reform and Housing* 199
 - Women* 200
- Social security** 208
- Socorro, Municipality of**
 - Oriental Mindoro* 223
 - Surigao del Norte* 229
- Sorsogon**
 - 1st district* 224
 - 2nd district* 224-225
- South Cotabato** 230
- Southern Leyte** 227
- Sovereignty** 143, 144, 185
- Speaker of the House of Representatives**
 - As Acting President of the Philippines* 163, 164
- Special elections** 151
 - Appropriations* 164
 - No call for* 164
- Sports** 145, 202, 207
- Sta. Ana, Municipality of**
 - Cagayan* 221
 - Pampanga* 222
- Sta. Barbara, Municipality of**
 - Iloilo* 225
 - Pangasinan* 220
- Sta. Cruz, Municipality of**
 - Davao del Sur* 230

- Laguna* 223
Zambales 222
- Sta. Fe, Municipality of**
Cebu 226
Leyte 227
- Sta. Maria, Municipality of**
Bulacan 221
Davao del Sur 230
Isabela 221
Laguna 223
Pangasinan 220
- Sta. Rita, Municipality of**
Pampanga 222
Samar 228
- Sta. Rosa, Municipality of**
Laguna 223
Nueva Ecija 222
- Sta. Teresita, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Cagayan 221
- State of war** 157
- State Policies** 143-146
- Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN)** 190-191
- Sto. Niño, Municipality of**
Cagayan 221
Samar 228
South Cotabato 230
- Sto. Tomas, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Davao del Norte 230
Isabela 221
Pampanga 222
Pangasinan 220
- Strikes and lockouts** 197
- Student aid** 206
- Suffrage** 151
Citizen requirements 151
- Sultan Kudarat, Municipality of** 231
- Sulu**
1st district 228
2nd district 228
- Supreme Court**
Annual Report to the President/Congress 173
- Clerk* 171
Compensation 172
Composition 169
Chief Justice 155, 158, 169, 171, 172, 173, 187, 214
Fiscal autonomy 168
Judicial and Bar Council 171
Judicial power 168
- Members**
Qualifications and requirements 169, 171
- Officials and employees**
Salaries, etc. 170
Powers and duties 169-170
- Supreme Court Justices** 155
- Surigao City, Surigao del Norte** 229
- Surigao del Norte**
1st district 229
2nd district 229
- Surigao del Sur**
1st district 230
2nd district 230
- T**
- Tacloban City, Leyte** 227
- Tagaytay City, Cavite** 223
- Tagbilaran City, Bohol** 226
- Tagoloan, Municipality of**
Lanao del Norte 231
Lanao del Sur 231
Misamis Oriental 229
- Taguig** 219
- Talisay, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Cebu 226
Negros Occidental 225
- Tanauan, Municipality of**
Batangas 222
Leyte 227
- Tangub City, Misamis Occidental** 229
- Tanodbayan** 188; **SEE ALSO** Office of the Special Prosecutor; Ombudsman
- Tarlac**
1st district 222

- 2nd district 222
 3rd District 222
Tawi-Tawi 228
Taxation
 Exemptions 159
 Progressive system 159
Taytay, Municipality of
 Palawan 223
 Rizal 224
Teachers
 Right to professional advancements 205
Territorial waters 143, 192
Toledo City, Cebu 226
Torture 148
Tour of Duty 209
Trade policy 195
Transactions
 Full public disclosure 146
Transitory Provisions 212-216
Travel
 Right to 147
Treaty 168, 169, 170, 201, 216
Trece Martires City, Cavite 223
Trial Courts 178
Trust, Public 186
Tubod, Municipality of
 Lanao del Norte 230
 Surigao del Norte 229
Tudela, Municipality of
 Cebu 226
 Misamis Occidental 229
- U**
- Unions** 148
United States of America
 Military Bases Agreement 216
Urban land reform 199
- V**
- Valencia, Municipality of**
 Bohol 226
 Bukidnon 229
 Negros Oriental 227
- Valenzuela** 219
Veterans
 Compensation 209, 210
 Surviving spouses and orphans 210
Veto 158, 159
Vice-President
 Appointment as Cabinet Member 161
 As Acting President 164
 Assumption of office 162
 Compensation 162
 Conflict of interest 165
 Death 163
 Election 161
 Qualifications and requirements 160
 Nominated by the President 163
 Oath 162
 Permanent disability 163
 Removal from office 163
 Resignation 163
 Term of office 160, 161
 Voluntary renunciation 161
 Vacancy 163
Victims
 Compensation 148
 Rehabilitation 148
Victoria, Municipality of
 Laguna 223
 Northern Samar 225
 Oriental Mindoro 223
 Tarlac 222
Vocational efficiency 203
Voters 151, 160, 178, 179, 180, 184, 211
- W**
- War**
 Declaration 157
 Renouncement 143
 State of 157
 Tour of duty of the Chief of Staff 209
Warrants
 Arrest 147
 Search 147
Water rights
 Fisheries 192

Industrial uses 192

Irrigation 192

Water supply 192

Waters

State ownership 191

Witnesses 147, 149

Women 200

Equality before the law 145

Role in nation building 145

Welfare 200

Writ of habeas corpus 148, 149

Suspension 166

Written declaration 164

Written questions 156

X

Y

Yeas 155, 158, 159

Youth

Out-of-school 203

Role in nation building 145

Z

Zambales

1st district 222

2nd district 222

Zamboanga City 228

Zamboanga del Norte

1st district 228

2nd district 228

3rd district 228

Zamboanga del Sur

1st district 228

2nd district 228

3rd district 228

Appendix

ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019
ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

Section 1. Statement of policy. — It is the policy of the Philippine Government, in line with the principle that a public office is a public trust, to repress certain acts of public officers and private persons alike which constitute graft or corrupt practices or which may lead thereto.

Section 2. Definition of terms. — As used in this Act, the term —
(a) "Government" includes the national government, the local governments, the government-owned and government-controlled corporations, and all other instrumentalities or agencies of the Republic of the Philippines and their branches.

(b) "Public officer" includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the classified or unclassified or exempt service receiving compensation, even nominal, from the government as defined in the preceding subparagraph.

(c) "Receiving any gift" includes the act of accepting directly or indirectly a gift from a person other than a member of the public officer's immediate family, in behalf of himself or of any member of his family or relative within the fourth civil degree, either by consanguinity or affinity, even on the occasion of a family celebration or national festivity like Christmas, if the value of the gift is under the circumstances manifestly excessive.

(d) "Person" includes natural and juridical persons unless the context indicates otherwise.

Section 3. Corrupt practices of public officers. — In addition to acts or omissions of public officers already penalized by existing law, the following shall constitute corrupt practices of any public officer and are hereby declared to be unlawful:

(a) Persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority or an offense in connection with the official duties of the latter, or allowing himself to be persuaded, induced, or influenced to commit such violation or offense.

(b) Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present, share, percentage, or benefit, for himself or for any other person, in connection with any contract or transaction between the Government and any other party, wherein the public officer in his official capacity has to intervene under the law.

(c) Directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any gift, present or other pecuniary or material benefit, for himself or for another, from any person for whom the public officer, in any manner or capacity, has secured or obtained, or will secure or obtain, any Government permit or license, in consideration for the help given or to be given, without prejudice to Section thirteen of this Act.

(d) Accepting or having any member of his family accept employment in a private enterprise which has pending official business with him during the pendency thereof or within one year after its termination.

(e) Causing any undue injury to any party, including the Government, or giving any private party any unwarranted benefits, advantage or preference in the discharge of his official administrative or judicial functions through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence. This provision shall apply to officers and employees of offices or government corporations charged with the grant of licenses or permits or other concessions.

(f) Neglecting or refusing, after due demand or request, without sufficient justification, to act within a reasonable time on any matter pending before him for the purpose of obtaining, directly or indirectly, from any person interested in the matter some pecuniary or material benefit or advantage, or for the purpose of favoring his own interest or giving undue advantage in favor of or discriminating against any other interested party.

(g) Entering, on behalf of the Government, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the same, whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby.

(h) Directly or indirectly having financial or pecuniary interest in any business, contract or transaction in connection with which he intervenes or takes part in his official capacity, or in which he is prohibited by the Constitution or by any law from having any interest.

(i) Directly or indirectly becoming interested, for personal gain, or having a material interest in any transaction or act requiring the approval of a board, panel or group of which he is a member, and

which exercises discretion in such approval, even if he votes against the same or does not participate in the action of the board, committee, panel or group. Interest for personal gain shall be presumed against those public officers responsible for the approval of manifestly unlawful, inequitable, or irregular transaction or acts by the board, panel or group to which they belong.

(j) Knowingly approving or granting any license, permit, privilege or benefit in favor of any person not qualified for or not legally entitled to such license, permit, privilege or advantage, or of a mere representative or dummy of one who is not so qualified or entitled.

(k) Divulging valuable information of a confidential character, acquired by his office or by him on account of his official position to unauthorized persons, or releasing such information in advance of its authorized release date.

The person giving the gift, present, share, percentage or benefit referred to in subparagraphs (b) and (c); or offering or giving to the public officer the employment mentioned in subparagraph (d); or urging the divulging or untimely release of the confidential information referred to in subparagraph (k) of this section shall, together with the offending public officer, be punished under Section nine of this Act and shall be permanently or temporarily disqualified in the discretion of the Court, from transacting business in any form with the Government.

Section 4. Prohibition on private individuals. — (a) It shall be unlawful for any person having family or close personal relation with any public official to capitalize or exploit or take advantage of such family or close personal relation by directly or indirectly requesting or receiving any present, gift or material or pecuniary advantage from any other person having some business, transaction, application, request or contract with the government, in which such public official has to intervene. Family relation shall include the spouse or relatives by consanguinity or affinity in the third civil degree. The word "close personal relation" shall include close personal friendship, social and fraternal connections, and professional employment all giving rise to intimacy which assures free access to such public officer.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to induce or cause any public official to commit any of the offenses defined in Section 3 hereof.

Section 5. Prohibition on certain relatives. — It shall be unlawful for the spouse or for any relative, by consanguinity or affinity, within the third civil degree, of the President of the Philippines, the Vice-President of the Philippines, the President of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to intervene, directly or indirectly, in any business, transaction, contract or application with the Government: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to any person who, prior to the assumption of office of any of the above officials to whom he is related, has been already dealing with the Government along the same line of business, nor to any transaction, contract or application already existing or pending at the time of such assumption of public office, nor to any application filed by him the approval of which is not discretionary on the part of the official or officials concerned but depends upon compliance with requisites provided by law, or rules or regulations issued pursuant to law, nor to any act lawfully performed in an official capacity or in the exercise of a profession.

Section 6. Prohibition on Members of Congress. — It shall be unlawful hereafter for any Member of the Congress during the term for which he has been elected, to acquire or receive any personal pecuniary interest in any specific business enterprise which will be directly and particularly favored or benefited by any law or resolution authored by him previously approved or adopted by the Congress during the same term.

The provision of this section shall apply to any other public officer who recommended the initiation in Congress of the enactment or adoption of any law or resolution, and acquires or receives any such interest during his incumbency.

It shall likewise be unlawful for such member of Congress or other public officer, who, having such interest prior to the approval of such law or resolution authored or recommended by him, continues for thirty days after such approval to retain such interest.

Section 7. Statement of assets and liabilities. — Every public officer, within thirty days after assuming office, thereafter, on or before the fifteenth day of April following the close of every calendar year, as well as upon the expiration of his term of office, or upon his resignation or separation from office, shall prepare and file with the office of the corresponding Department Head, or in the case of a Head of department or Chief of an independent

office, with the Office of the President, a true, detailed sworn statement of assets and liabilities, including a statement of the amounts and sources of his income, the amounts of his personal and family expenses and the amount of income taxes paid for the next preceding calendar year: *Provided*, That public officers assuming office less than two months before the end of the calendar year, may file their first statement on or before the fifteenth day of April following the close of the said calendar year. (As amended by RA3047, PD 677, January 24, 1978)

Section 8. *Prima facie* evidence of and dismissal due to unexplained wealth. — If in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act Numbered One thousand three hundred seventy-nine, a public official has been found to have acquired during his incumbency, whether in his name or in the name of other persons, an amount of property and/or money manifestly out of proportion to his salary and to his other lawful income, that fact shall be a ground for dismissal or removal. Properties in the name of the spouse and dependents of such public official may be taken into consideration, when their acquisition through legitimate means cannot be satisfactorily shown. Bank deposits in the name of or manifestly excessive expenditures incurred by the public official, his spouse or any of their dependents including but not limited to activities in any club or association or any ostentatious display of wealth including frequent travel abroad of a non-official character by any public official when such activities entail expenses evidently out of proportion to legitimate income, shall likewise be taken into consideration in the enforcement of this section, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary. The circumstances hereinabove mentioned shall constitute valid ground for the administrative suspension of the public official concerned for an indefinite period until the investigation wealth is completed. (As amended by BP Blg., 195, March 16, 1982)

Section 9. *Penalties for violations.* — (a) Any public officer or private person committing any of the unlawful acts or omissions enumerated in Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 of this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than six years and one month nor more than fifteen years, perpetual disqualification from public office, and confiscation or forfeiture in favor of the Government of any prohibited interest and unexplained wealth manifestly out of proportion to his salary and other lawful income. Any complaining party at whose complaint the criminal prosecution was initiated shall, in case of conviction

of the accused, be entitled to recover in the criminal action with priority over the forfeiture in favor of the Government, the amount of money or the thing he may have given to the accused, or the fair value of such thing. (b) Any public officer violating any of the provisions of Section 7 of this Act shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand pesos nor more than five thousand pesos, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year and six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court. The violation of said section proven in a proper administrative proceeding shall be sufficient cause for removal or dismissal of a public officer, even if no criminal prosecution is instituted against him. (*Amended by BP Blg. 195, March 16, 1982*)

Section 10. Competent court. — Until otherwise provided by law, all prosecutions under this Act shall be within the original jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan. (*As amended by BP Blg. 195, March 16, 1982*)

Section 11. Prescription of offenses. — All offenses punishable under this Act shall prescribe in fifteen years.

Section 12. Termination of office. — No public officer shall be allowed to resign or retire pending an investigation, criminal or administrative, or pending a prosecution against him, for any offense under this Act or under the provisions of the Revised Penal Code on bribery.

Section 13. Suspension and loss of benefits. — Any incumbent public officer against whom any criminal prosecution under a valid information under this Act or under Title Seven Book II of the Revised Penal Code or for any offense involving fraud upon government or public funds or property whether as a simple or as complex offense and in whatever stage of execution and mode of participation, is pending in court shall be suspended from office. Should he be convinced by final judgement, he shall lose all retirement or gratuity benefits under any law, but if he is acquitted, he shall be entitled to reinstatement and to the salaries and benefits which he failed to receive during suspension, unless in the meantime administrative proceedings have been filed against him. In the event that such convicted officer, who may have been separated from the service has already received such benefits he shall be liable to restitute the same to the government. (*As amended by BP Blg. 195, March 16, 1982*)

Section 14. Exception. — Unsolicited gifts or presents of small or insignificant value offered or given as a mere ordinary token of gratitude or friendship according to local customs or usage, shall be excepted from the provisions of this Act. Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to prejudice or prohibit the practice of any profession, lawful trade or occupation by any private person or by any public officer who under the law may legitimately practice his profession, trade or occupation, during his incumbency, except where the practice of such profession, trade or occupation involves conspiracy with any other person or public official to commit any of the violations penalized in this Act.

Section 15. Separability clause. — If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 16. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect on its approval, but for the purpose of determining unexplained wealth, all property acquired by a public officer since he assumed office shall be taken into consideration.

Approved, August 17, 1960.

Appendix

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6713

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, TO UPHOLD THE TIME-HONORED PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEING A PUBLIC TRUST, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENUMERATING PROHIBITED ACTS AND TRANSACTIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees."

Section 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service. Public officials and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the term:

(a) "Government" includes the National Government, the local governments, and all other instrumentalities, agencies or branches of the Republic of the Philippines including government-owned or controlled corporations, and their subsidiaries.

(b) "Public Officials" includes elective and appointive officials and employees, permanent or temporary, whether in the career or non-career service, including military and police personnel, whether or not they receive compensation, regardless of amount.

(c) "Gift" refers to a thing or a right to dispose of gratuitously, or any act or liberality, in favor of another who accepts it, and shall include a simulated sale or an ostensibly onerous disposition thereof. It shall not include an unsolicited gift of nominal or insignificant value not given in anticipation of, or in exchange for, a favor from a public official or employee.

(d) "Receiving any gift" includes the act of accepting directly or indirectly, a gift from a person other than a member of his family or relative as defined in this Act, even on the occasion of a family celebration or national festivity like Christmas, if the value of the gift is neither nominal nor insignificant, or the gift is given in anticipation of, or in exchange for, a favor.

(e) "Loan" covers both simple loan and commodatum as well as guarantees, financing arrangements or accommodations intended to ensure its approval.

(f) "Substantial stockholder" means any person who owns, directly or indirectly, shares of stock sufficient to elect a director of a corporation. This term shall also apply to the parties to a voting trust.

(g) "Family of public officials or employees" means their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age.

(h) "Person" includes natural and juridical persons unless the context indicates otherwise.

(i) "Conflict of interest" arises when a public official or employee is a member of a board, an officer, or a substantial stockholder of a private corporation or owner or has a substantial interest in a business, and the interest of such corporation or business, or his rights or duties therein, may be opposed to or affected by the faithful performance of official duty.

(j) "Divestment" is the transfer of title or disposal of interest in property by voluntarily, completely and actually depriving or dispossessing oneself of his right or title to it in favor of a person or persons other than his spouse and relatives as defined in this Act.

(k) "Relatives" refers to any and all persons related to a public official or employee within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, including bilas, inso and balae.

Section 4. Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees.

- (A) Every public official and employee shall observe the following as standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of official duties:

(a) Commitment to public interest. - Public officials and employees shall always uphold the public interest over and above personal interest. All government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed and used efficiently, effectively, honestly and economically, particularly to avoid wastage in public funds and revenues.

(b) Professionalism. - Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill. They shall enter public service with utmost devotion and dedication to duty. They shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of their roles as dispensers or peddlers of undue patronage.

(c) Justness and sincerity. - Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. They shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their office to their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity except with respect to appointments of such relatives to positions considered strictly confidential or as members of their personal staff whose terms are coterminous with theirs.

(d) Political neutrality. - Public officials and employees shall provide service to everyone without unfair discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference.

(e) Responsiveness to the public. - Public officials and employees shall extend prompt, courteous, and adequate service to the public. Unless otherwise provided by law or when required by the public interest, public officials and employees shall provide information of their policies and procedures in clear and understandable language, ensure openness of information, public consultations and hearings whenever appropriate, encourage suggestions, simplify and systematize policy, rules and procedures, avoid red tape and develop an understanding and appreciation of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, especially in the depressed rural and urban areas.

(f) Nationalism and patriotism. - Public officials and employees shall at all times be loyal to the Republic and to the Filipino people, promote the use of locally produced goods, resources and technology and encourage appreciation and pride of country and people. They shall endeavor to maintain and defend Philippine sovereignty against foreign intrusion.

(g) Commitment to democracy. - Public officials and employees shall commit themselves to the democratic way of life and values, maintain the principle of public accountability, and manifest by deeds the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. They shall at all times uphold the Constitution and put loyalty to country above loyalty to persons or party.

(h) Simple living. - Public officials and employees and their families shall lead modest lives appropriate to their positions and income. They shall not indulge in extravagant or ostentatious display of wealth in any form.

(B) The Civil Service Commission shall adopt positive measures to promote (1) observance of these standards including the dissemination of information programs and workshops authorizing merit increases beyond regular progression steps, to a limited number of employees recognized by their office colleagues to be outstanding in their observance of ethical standards; and (2) continuing research and experimentation on measures which provide positive motivation to public officials and employees in raising the general level of observance of these standards.

Section 5. Duties of Public Officials and Employees. - In the performance of their duties, all public officials and employees are under obligation to:

(a) Act promptly on letters and requests. - All public officials and employees shall, within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof, respond to letters, telegrams or other means of communications sent by the public. The reply must contain the action taken on the request.

(b) Submit annual performance reports. - All heads or other responsible officers of offices and agencies of the government and of government-owned or controlled corporations shall, within forty-

five (45) working days from the end of the year, render a performance report of the agency or office or corporation concerned. Such report shall be open and available to the public within regular office hours.

(c) Process documents and papers expeditiously. - All official papers and documents must be processed and completed within a reasonable time from the preparation thereof and must contain, as far as practicable, not more than three (3) signatories therein. In the absence of duly authorized signatories, the official next-in-rank or officer in charge shall sign for and in their behalf.

(d) Act immediately on the public's personal transactions. - All public officials and employees must attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of their offices and must, at all times, act promptly and expeditiously.

(e) Make documents accessible to the public. - All public documents must be made accessible to, and readily available for inspection by, the public within reasonable working hours.

Section 6. System of Incentives and Rewards. - A system of annual incentives and rewards is hereby established in order to motivate and inspire public servants to uphold the highest standards of ethics. For this purpose, a Committee on Awards to Outstanding Public Officials and Employees is hereby created composed of the following: the Ombudsman and Chairman of the Civil Service Commission as Co-Chairmen, and the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, and two government employees to be appointed by the President, as members.

It shall be the task of this Committee to conduct a periodic, continuing review of the performance of public officials and employees, in all the branches and agencies of Government and establish a system of annual incentives and rewards to the end that due recognition is given to public officials and employees of outstanding merit on the basis of the standards set forth in this Act.

The conferment of awards shall take into account, among other things, the following: the years of service and the quality and consistency of performance, the obscurity of the position, the level of salary, the unique and exemplary quality of a certain achievement, and the risks or temptations inherent in the work. Incentives and

rewards to government officials and employees of the year to be announced in public ceremonies honoring them may take the form of bonuses, citations, directorships in government-owned or controlled corporations, local and foreign scholarship grants, paid vacations and the like. They shall likewise be automatically promoted to the next higher position with the commensurate salary suitable to their qualifications. In case there is no next higher position or it is not vacant, said position shall be included in the budget of the office in the next General Appropriations Act. The Committee on Awards shall adopt its own rules to govern the conduct of its activities.

Section 7. Prohibited Acts and Transactions. - In addition to acts and omissions of public officials and employees now prescribed in the Constitution and existing laws, the following shall constitute prohibited acts and transactions of any public official and employee and are hereby declared to be unlawful:

(a) Financial and material interest. - Public officials and employees shall not, directly or indirectly, have any financial or material interest in any transaction requiring the approval of their office.

(b) Outside employment and other activities related thereto.
- Public officials and employees during their incumbency shall not:

(1) Own, control, manage or accept employment as officer, employee, consultant, counsel, broker, agent, trustee or nominee in any private enterprise regulated, supervised or licensed by their office unless expressly allowed by law;

(2) Engage in the private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided, that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with their official functions; or

(3) Recommend any person to any position in a private enterprise which has a regular or pending official transaction with their office.

These prohibitions shall continue to apply for a period of one (1) year after resignation, retirement, or separation from public office, except in the case of subparagraph (b) (2) above, but the professional

concerned cannot practice his profession in connection with any matter before the office he used to be with, in which case the one-year prohibition shall likewise apply.

(c) Disclosure and/or misuse of confidential information. - Public officials and employees shall not use or divulge, confidential or classified information officially known to them by reason of their office and not made available to the public, either:

(1) To further their private interests, or give undue advantage to anyone; or

(2) To prejudice the public interest.

(d) Solicitation or acceptance of gifts. - Public officials and employees shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any operation being regulated by, or any transaction which may be affected by the functions of their office.

As to gifts or grants from foreign governments, the Congress consents to:

(i) The acceptance and retention by a public official or employee of a gift of nominal value tendered and received as a souvenir or mark of courtesy;

(ii) The acceptance by a public official or employee of a gift in the nature of a scholarship or fellowship grant or medical treatment; or

(iii) The acceptance by a public official or employee of travel grants or expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the Philippine (such as allowances, transportation, food, and lodging) of more than nominal value if such acceptance is appropriate or consistent with the interests of the Philippines, and permitted by the head of office, branch or agency to which he belongs.

The Ombudsman shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this subsection, including pertinent reporting and disclosure requirements.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict or prohibit any educational, scientific or cultural exchange programs subject to national security requirements.

Section 8. Statements and Disclosure. - Public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has the right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

(A) Statements of Assets and Liabilities and Financial Disclosure.
- All public officials and employees, except those who serve in an honorary capacity, laborers and casual or temporary workers, shall file under oath their Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and a Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections and those of their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

The two documents shall contain information on the following:

(a) real property, its improvements, acquisition costs, assessed value and current fair market value;

(b) personal property and acquisition cost;

(c) all other assets such as investments, cash on hand or in banks, stocks, bonds, and the like;

(d) liabilities, and;

(e) all business interests and financial connections.

The documents must be filed:

(a) within thirty (30) days after assumption of office;

(b) on or before April 30, of every year thereafter; and

(c) within thirty (30) days after separation from the service.

All public officials and employees required under this section to file the aforestated documents shall also execute, within thirty (30) days from the date of their assumption of office, the necessary authority in favor of the Ombudsman to obtain from all appropriate government agencies, including the Bureau of Internal Revenue, such documents as may show their assets, liabilities, net worth, and also their business interests and financial connections in previous years, including, if possible, the year when they first assumed any office in the Government.

Husband and wife who are both public officials or employees may file the required statements jointly or separately.

The Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and the Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections shall be filed by:

(1) Constitutional and national elective officials, with the national office of the Ombudman;

(2) Senators and Congressmen, with the Secretaries of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively; Justices, with the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court; Judges, with the Court Administrator; and all national executive officials with the Office of the President.

(3) Regional and local officials and employees, with the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions;

(4) Officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain, with the Office of the President, and those below said ranks, with the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions; and

(5) All other public officials and employees, defined in Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, with the Civil Service Commission.

(B) Identification and disclosure of relatives. - It shall be the duty of every public official or employee to identify and disclose, to the best of his knowledge and information, his relatives in the Government in the form, manner and frequency prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

(C) Accessibility of documents. - (1) Any and all statements filed under this Act, shall be made available for inspection at reasonable hours.

(2) Such statements shall be made available for copying or reproduction after ten (10) working days from the time they are filed as required by law.

(3) Any person requesting a copy of a statement shall be required to pay a reasonable fee to cover the cost of reproduction and mailing of such statement, as well as the cost of certification.

(4) Any statement filed under this Act shall be available to the public for a period of ten (10) years after receipt of the statement. After such period, the statement may be destroyed unless needed in an ongoing investigation.

(D) Prohibited acts. - It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain or use any statement filed under this Act for:

(a) any purpose contrary to morals or public policy; or

(b) any commercial purpose other than by news and communications media for dissemination to the general public.

Section 9. Divestment. - A public official or employee shall avoid conflicts of interest at all times. When a conflict of interest arises, he shall resign from his position in any private business enterprise within thirty (30) days from his assumption of office and/or divest himself of his shareholdings or interest within sixty (60) days from such assumption.

The same rule shall apply where the public official or employee is a partner in a partnership.

The requirement of divestment shall not apply to those who serve the Government in an honorary capacity nor to laborers and casual or temporary workers.

Section 10. Review and Compliance Procedure. - (a) The designated Committees of both Houses of the Congress shall establish procedures

for the review of statements to determine whether said statements which have been submitted on time, are complete, and are in proper form. In the event a determination is made that a statement is not so filed, the appropriate Committee shall so inform the reporting individual and direct him to take the necessary corrective action.

(b) In order to carry out their responsibilities under this Act, the designated Committees of both Houses of Congress shall have the power within their respective jurisdictions, to render any opinion interpreting this Act, in writing, to persons covered by this Act, subject in each instance to the approval by affirmative vote of the majority of the particular House concerned.

The individual to whom an opinion is rendered, and any other individual involved in a similar factual situation, and who, after issuance of the opinion acts in good faith in accordance with it shall not be subject to any sanction provided in this Act.

(c) The heads of other offices shall perform the duties stated in subsections (a) and (b) hereof insofar as their respective offices are concerned, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Justice, in the case of the Executive Department and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in the case of the Judicial Department.

Section 11. Penalties. - (a) Any public official or employee, regardless of whether or not he holds office or employment in a casual, temporary, holdover, permanent or regular capacity, committing any violation of this Act shall be punished with a fine not exceeding the equivalent of six (6) months' salary or suspension not exceeding one (1) year, or removal depending on the gravity of the offense after due notice and hearing by the appropriate body or agency. If the violation is punishable by a heavier penalty under another law, he shall be prosecuted under the latter statute. Violations of Sections 7, 8 or 9 of this Act shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding five (5) years, or a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000), or both, and, in the discretion of the court of competent jurisdiction, disqualification to hold public office.

(b) Any violation hereof proven in a proper administrative proceeding shall be sufficient cause for removal or dismissal of

a public official or employee, even if no criminal prosecution is instituted against him.

(c) Private individuals who participate in conspiracy as co-principals, accomplices or accessories, with public officials or employees, in violation of this Act, shall be subject to the same penal liabilities as the public officials or employees and shall be tried jointly with them.

(d) The official or employee concerned may bring an action against any person who obtains or uses a report for any purpose prohibited by Section 8 (D) of this Act. The Court in which such action is brought may assess against such person a penalty in any amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000). If another sanction hereunder or under any other law is heavier, the latter shall apply.

Section 12. Promulgation of Rules and Regulations, Administration and Enforcement of this Act. - The Civil Service Commission shall have the primary responsibility for the administration and enforcement of this Act. It shall transmit all cases for prosecution arising from violations of this Act to the proper authorities for appropriate action: *Provided*, however, That it may institute such administrative actions and disciplinary measures as may be warranted in accordance with law. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as a deprivation of the right of each House of Congress to discipline its Members for disorderly behavior.

The Civil Service Commission is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including guidelines for individuals who render free voluntary service to the Government. The Ombudsman shall likewise take steps to protect citizens who denounce acts or omissions of public officials and employees which are in violation of this Act.

Section 13. Provisions for More Stringent Standards. - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to derogate from any law, or any regulation prescribed by any body or agency, which provides for more stringent standards for its official and employees.

Section 14. Appropriations. - The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Civil Service Commission. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 15. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 16. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof inconsistent herewith, are deemed repealed or modified accordingly, unless the same provide for a heavier penalty.

Section 17. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after thirty (30) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved, February 20, 1989.



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