

**PROVISIONAL CONSTITUTION
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Article I

**ADOPTION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE
1973 CONSTITUTION, AS AMENDED**

SECTION 1. The provisions of **ARTICLE I** (National Territory), **ARTICLE III** (Citizenship), **ARTICLE IV** (Bill of Rights), **ARTICLE V** (Duties and Obligations of Citizens), and **ARTICLE VI** (Suffrage) of the 1973 Constitution, as amended, remain in force and effect and are hereby adopted in toto as part of this Provisional Constitution.

SECTION 2. The provisions of **ARTICLE II** (Declaration of Principles and State Policies), **ARTICLE VII** (The President), **ARTICLE X** (The Judiciary), **ARTICLE XI** (Local Governments), **ARTICLE XII** (The Constitutional Commissions), **ARTICLE XIII** (Accountability of Public Officers), **ARTICLE XIV** (The National Economy and Patrimony of the Nation), **ARTICLE XV** (General Provisions) of the 1973 Constitution as amended, are hereby adopted as part of this Provisional Constitution, insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Proclamation.

SECTION 3. **ARTICLE VIII** (The Batasang Pambansa), **ARTICLE IX** (The Prime Minister and the Cabinet); **ARTICLE XVI** (Amendments), **ARTICLE XVII** (Transitory Provisions) and all amendments thereto are deemed superseded by this Proclamation.

Article II

THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE-PRESIDENT, AND THE CABINET

SECTION 1. Until a legislature is elected and convened under a new Constitution, the President shall continue to exercise legislative power.

The President shall give priority to measures to achieve the mandate of the people to:

- (a) Completely reorganize the government, eradicate unjust and oppressive structures, and all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime;
- (b) Make effective the guarantees of civil, political, human, social, economic and cultural rights and freedoms of the Filipino people, and provide remedies against violations thereof;
- (c) Rehabilitate the economy and promote the nationalist aspirations of the people;
- (d) Recover ill-gotten properties amassed by the leaders and supporters of the previous regime and protect the interest of the people through orders of sequestration or freezing of assets or accounts;
- (e) Eradicate graft and corruption in government and punish those guilty thereof;
- (f) Restore peace and order, settle the problem of insurgency and pursue national reconciliation based on justice.

SECTION 2. The President shall be assisted by a Cabinet which shall be composed of Ministers with or without portfolio who shall be appointed by the President. They shall be accountable to and hold office at the pleasure of the President.

SECTION 3. The President shall have control of and exercise general supervision over all local governments.

SECTION 4. In case of permanent vacancy arising from death, incapacity or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become President.

In case of death, permanent incapacity, or resignation of the Vice-President, the Cabinet shall choose from among themselves the Minister with portfolio who shall act as President.

SECTION 5. The Vice-President may be appointed Member of the Cabinet and may perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the President.

SECTION 6. The President, the Vice-President, and the Members of the Cabinet shall be subject to the disabilities provided for in Section 8, Article VII, and in Sections 6 and 7, Article IX, respectively, of the 1973 Constitution, as amended.

Article III

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. In the reorganization of the government, priority shall be given to measures to promote economy, efficiency, and the eradication of graft and corruption.

SECTION 2. All elective and appointive officials and employees under the 1973 Constitution shall continue in office until otherwise provided by proclamation or executive order or upon the appointment and qualification of their successors, if such is made within a period of one year from February 25, 1986.

SECTION 3. Any public office or employee separated from the service as a result of the organization effected under this Proclamation shall, if entitled under the laws then in force, receive the retirement and other benefits accruing thereunder.

SECTION 4. The records, equipment, buildings, facilities and other properties of all government offices shall be carefully preserved. In case any office or body is abolished or reorganized pursuant to this Proclamation, its funds and properties shall be transferred to the office or body to which its powers, functions, and responsibilities substantially pertain.

Article IV

EXISTING LAWS, TREATIES, AND CONTRACTS

SECTION 1. All existing laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, letters of instruction, implementing rules and regulations and other executive issuances not inconsistent with this Proclamation shall remain operative until amended, modified, or repealed by the President or the regular legislative body to be established under a new Constitution.

SECTION 2. The President may review all contracts, concessions, permits, or other forms of privileges for the exploration, development, exploitation or utilization of natural resources entered into, granted, issued, or acquired before the date of this Proclamation and when the national interest requires amend, modify or revoke them.

Article V

ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSTITUTION

SECTION 1. Within 60 days from the date of this Proclamation, a Commission shall be appointed by the President to draft a new Constitution. The Commission shall be composed of not less than thirty (30) nor more than fifty (50) natural-born citizens of the Philippines, of recognized probity, known for their independence, nationalism and patriotism. They shall be chosen by the President after consultation with various sectors of society.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall complete its work within as short a period as maybe consistent with the need both to hasten the return of normal constitutional government and to draft a document truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the Filipino people.

SECTION 3. The Commission shall conduct public hearings to ensure that the people will have adequate participation in the formulation of the new Constitution.

SECTION 4. The plenary sessions of the Commission shall be public and duly recorded.

SECTION 5. The new Constitution shall be presented by the Commission to the President who shall fix the date for the holding of a plebiscite. It shall become valid and effective upon ratification by a majority of the votes cast in such plebiscite which shall be held within a period of sixty (60) days following its submission to the President.

Article VI

HOLDING OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. National elections shall be held as may be provided by the New Constitution.

SECTION 2. Local elections shall be held on a date to be determined by the President which shall not be earlier than the date of the plebiscite for the ratification of the New Constitution.

Article VII

EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 1. This proclamation shall take effect upon its promulgation by the President.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to the letter and spirit of this Proclamation, a consolidated official text of the provisional Constitution shall be promulgated by the President and published in English and Pilipino in the Official Gazette and in newspapers of general circulation to ensure widespread dissemination.

Done in the City of Manila, this 25th day of March, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen hundred and eighty six.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO

By the President:

(Sgd.) JOKER P. ARROYO
Executive Secretary