

[BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 122, March 10, 1981]

**AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, FOR
RATIFICATION OR REJECTION, THE AMENDMENTS TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROPOSED BY THE
BATASANG PAMBANSA, SITTING AS A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY,
IN ITS RESOLUTIONS NUMBERED TWO, THREE AND ONE, AND
TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Be it enacted by the Batasang Pambansa in session assembled:

SECTION 1. A plebiscite shall be held on April 7, 1981, at which amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines proposed by the Batasang Pambansa, sitting as a Constituent Assembly, during its Third Regular Session shall be submitted to the electorate for their consideration.

SEC. 2. The said amendments shall be published at least once in each of the English and Pilipino newspapers of nationwide circulation, the last publication to be made not later than March 17, 1981. Printed copies of the amendments shall be posted in a conspicuous place in every municipal, city and provincial office building not later than March 17, 1981. Sufficient copies of the proposed amendments shall be furnished each polling place to be available for examination by the qualified voters during the day of the plebiscite. Whenever practicable, copies in the principal dialects as may be determined by the Commission on Elections shall also be printed and used. The Commission on Elections is hereby empowered to promulgate rules and regulations to assure widest dissemination of information on the proposed constitutional amendments through the broadcast and print media and the barangays.

SEC. 3. The ballots to be used in the plebiscite shall be printed in English, and in appropriate cases, in Arabic as provided by the Election Code of 1978, in a form to be prescribed by the Commission on Elections which shall include the questions hereinafter stated.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

The Batasang Pambansa, sitting as a Constituent Assembly, in Resolution No. 2, No. 3 and No. 1 has proposed that the Constitution of the Philippines be amended in the particulars hereinbelow stated.

To vote for the approval of each of the questions covering the amendments proposed, write the word "Yes" or its equivalent in the blank space provided for the purpose.

To vote for the rejection thereof, write the word "No" or its equivalent.

QUESTION NO. 1

Do you vote for the approval of an amendment to the Constitution and to Amendment No. 2, as proposed by the Batasang Pambansa in Resolution No. 2, which, in substance, calls for the establishment of a modified parliamentary system,

amending for this purpose Articles VII, VIII and IX of the Constitution, with the following principal features:

(1) The President is the head of state and Chief Executive of the Republic of the Philippines, elected by direct vote of the people for a term of six years. He has control of the Ministries. He formulates the guidelines of national policy. He nominates the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to be elected by the Batasang Pambansa. Upon the advice of the Prime Minister in writing, whenever the need arises for a vote of confidence on a fundamental issue, the President may dissolve the Batasang Pambansa and call for an election on a date set by him. However, the Batasang Pambansa may not be dissolved: 1) within eighteen (18) months preceding a regular election of the Batasang Pambansa; 2) within eighteen (18) months immediately following such election; 3) during the pendency of impeachment proceedings against the President; or 4) when the Executive Committee or the Speaker, in appropriate cases, exercises the powers or discharges the duties of the President. The President shall be immune from suit during his tenure. Thereafter, no suit whatsoever shall lie for official acts done by him or by others pursuant to his specific orders during his tenure. This immunity shall apply to the incumbent President referred to in Article XVII of this Constitution.

(2) The legislative power is vested in the Batasang Pambansa to be composed of not more than 200 members unless otherwise provided by law, including regional and sectoral representatives, and members of the Cabinet chosen by the President. The regional and sectoral representatives shall have a term of six years. The regular election for the members of the Batasang Pambansa shall be held on the second Monday of May, 1984, and every six years thereafter. The Batasang Pambansa elects the Prime Minister upon nomination by the President. It may withdraw its confidence from the Prime Minister, in which case, the President may within ten days from advice of the adoption of the motion of non-confidence, submit to the Batasang Pambansa a nominee for Prime Minister. It calls for the election of President in case of permanent disability, death, removal from office or resignation of the President. In addition to the existing disqualifications, its Members may not appear as counsel in any criminal case wherein a government officer or employee is accused of an offense committed in relation to his office

(3) The Executive Committee is composed of not more than 14 members designated by the President, at least half of whom shall be members of the Batasang Pambansa. It is headed by the Prime Minister. The Executive Committee assists the President in the exercise of his powers and functions and in the performance of his duties as he may prescribe. The Executive Committee shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the President until a President is elected and qualified in the following cases: (a) if the President-elect dies; or (b) fails to qualify before the beginning of his term; or (c) if the President has not been chosen before the start of his term. In case of permanent disability, death, removal from office or resignation of the President, the Executive Committee headed by the Prime Minister as hereinafter provided shall exercise the powers of the President until a President shall have been