

Republic of the Philippines
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. 1230

Introduced by

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**RESOLUTION
PROPOSING THE REVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, the present presidential form of government has proven itself frustratingly ineffective in addressing the numerous economic and political problems of the country, as well as the growing complexities of the people’s needs;

WHEREAS, the too much concentration of powers in the executive department and the enormity of election expenses therein have created a political culture that tends to be abusive and corrupt;

WHEREAS, recurring gridlocks and paralysis in governance under the present system have deprived our people of the fundamentals for development, growth, and progress, consigning this country to the tail-end in a very competitive world economy;

WHEREAS, the present unitary system miserably failed to adequately address the varying and competing needs of our people throughout the more than thousand islands of the archipelago, resulting in costly and destructive fragmentation and serious moves for secession;

WHEREAS, all these point to the imperatives for immediate shift to the unicameral parliamentary form of government, and structured federal system in ten to fifteen years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that pursuant to Section 1, paragraph 1, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution, Congress shall propose the following revision to the 1987 Constitution, to wit:

**ARTICLE I
(NATIONAL TERRITORY)**

1. The phrase **“AND/OR HISTORIC RIGHT OR LEGAL TITLE,”** shall be inserted in between the words **“jurisdiction”** and **“consisting”** in the first sentence.

**ARTICLE II
(DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND STATE POLICIES)**

2. The phrase **“is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to”** in between the words **“Philippines”** and **“secure”** in the second and third sentences of Section 3, shall be deleted, and in lieu thereof insert the word **SHALL**, to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines SHALL secure the sovereignty of the State, and the integrity of the national territory.”

3. The phrase **“OR CLUSTERS THEROF, TOWARDS THE ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT”** shall be inserted before the **“.”** in Section 25 hereof.

**ARTICLE III
(BILL OF RIGHTS)**

4. The phrase **“IN ANY PROCEEDING”** shall be inserted before the **“.”** in subsection (3) of Section 12.
5. The last sentence in Section 19 (1) is hereby deleted.

**ARTICLE IV
(CITIZENSHIP)**

6. The phrase **“SHALL HAVE”** shall be inserted in between the words **“who”** and **“elect”** in subsection (3) of Section 1. Consequently, the word **“elect”** shall be changed to **“elected”**.
7. The word **“elect”** in between the words **“who”** and **“Philippine”** in the second sentence of Section 2 shall be changed to **“elected”**.
8. The whole provision of Section 5 shall be replaced with a new provision, to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. THE PARLIAMENT SHALL BY LAW PROVIDE FOR THE CORRESPONDING RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN DUAL CITIZENSHIP.”

**ARTICLE VI & VII
(THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT & THE PRESIDENT)**

9. Article VI, THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, shall be renamed THE PARLIAMENT; Article VII, THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, shall be renamed THE PRESIDENT, and a new Article VII-A to be named THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET shall be added.

10. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 24 of Article VI shall be deleted and substituted with the following new sections:

ARTICLE VI

THE [LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT] PARLIAMENT

SECTION 1. (1) THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS SHALL BE VESTED IN A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT WHICH SHALL BE COMPOSED OF AS MANY MEMBERS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW, TO BE APPORTIONED AMONG THE PROVINCES, REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, AND CITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NUMBER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INHABITANTS, WITH AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND INHABITANTS PER DISTRICT, AND ON THE BASIS OF A UNIFORM AND PROGRESSIVE RATIO. EACH DISTRICT SHALL COMPRISE, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE CONTIGUOUS, COMPACT AND ADJACENT TERRITORY, AND EACH PROVINCE MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE MEMBER.

(2) EACH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SHALL BE A NATURAL BORN CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, AT LEAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS OLD ON THE DAY OF HIS ELECTION, A RESIDENT OF HIS DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR THERETO, AND SHALL BE ELECTED BY THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF HIS DISTRICT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS WITHOUT LIMITATION AS TO THE NUMBER THEREOF, EXCEPT THOSE UNDER THE PARTY-LIST WHICH SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW AND WHOSE NUMBER SHALL BE TWENTY PERCENT OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP COMING FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY DISTRICTS.

SEC. 2. IN CASE THE PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVED, THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS SHALL SERVE THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE TERM FROM THE TIME THE PRIME MINISTER CONVOKES THE PARLIAMENT, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELECTIONS.

SEC. 3. (1) UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, THE REGULAR ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT SHALL BE HELD ON THE SECOND MON-

DAY OF MAY, AND EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER.

(2) IN CASE A VACANCY ARISES IN THE PARLIAMENT AT LEAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE A REGULAR ELECTION, THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS SHALL CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION THEREIN TO BE HELD WITHIN SIXTY DAYS AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS.

SEC. 4. THE PARLIAMENT 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 UNTIL THIRTY DAYS BEFORE THE OPENING OF ITS NEXT REGULAR SESSION, EXCLUSIVE OF SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND LEGAL HOLIDAYS. IT MAY RECESS FOR PERIODS NOT EXCEEDING THIRTY DAYS EACH, AND NOT MORE THAN NINETY DAYS DURING THE YEAR. HOWEVER, IT MAY BE CALLED TO SESSION AT ANY TIME BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONSIDER ONLY SUCH SUBJECTS OR LEGISLATIONS AS HE MAY SPECIFY IN HIS CALL.

SEC. 5. (1) THE PARLIAMENT SHALL, BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS, ELECT ITS SPEAKER FROM THE MEMBERS THEREOF, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY. IT SHALL CHOOSE ITS SECRETARY AND SUCH OTHER OFFICERS AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY. THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL PRECEDE ALL OTHER BUSINESS FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER.

(2) A MAJORITY OF THE PARLIAMENT 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 THE PARLIAMENT MAY PROVIDE.

(3) THE PARLIAMENT 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) THE PARLIAMENT 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, THERE BEING A QUORUM, BE ENTERED IN THE JOURNAL.

11. Sections 10-14, 20-23, 25-32 of Article VI shall be retained, except Section 27 (1) in the second sentence, the word “two-thirds” shall be replaced with the word “MAJORITY”. The foregoing sections shall be renumbered consecutively as Sections 6-22, as follows:

House of Representatives] **THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT** 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] **PARLIAMENT** approving such increase.

Sec. [11]. 7. A [Senator or Member of the House of Representatives] **MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT** shall, in all offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment, be privileged from arrest while the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** is in session. No Member shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** or in any committee thereof.

Sec. [12.] 8. All Members of the [Senate and the House of Representatives] **PARLIAMENT** shall, upon assumption of office, make a full disclosure of their financial and business interests. They shall notify the [House concerned] **PARLIAMENT** of a potential conflict of interest that may arise from the filing of a proposed legislation of which they are authors.

Sec. [13.] 9. No [Senator or Member of the House of Representatives] **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** 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.] 10. No [Senator or Member of the House of Representatives] **MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT** 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. [20.] 11. The records and books of accounts of the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** 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.] 12. The [Senate or the House of Representatives] **PARLIAMENT** or any of respective committees may conduct inquiries in aid of legislation accordance with its duly published rules of procedure. The rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected.

Sec. [22.] 13. The heads of departments may, upon their own

initiative, with the consent of the [President] **PRIME MINISTER**, or upon the request of [either House,] **THE PARLIAMENT**, as [the] **ITS** rules [of each House] shall provide, appear before and be heard by [such House] **THE PARLIAMENT** 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] **PARLIAMENT** 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] **PRIME MINISTER** so states in writing, the appearance shall be conducted in executive session.

Sec. [23.] **14.** (1) The [Congress] **PARLIAMENT**, by a vote of two-thirds of [both Houses in joint session assembled, voting separately,] **OF ALL ITS MEMBERS**, 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] **PARLIAMENT** may, by law, authorize the [President] **PRIME MINISTER**, 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] **PARLIAMENT**, such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment thereof.

Sec. [25.] **15.** (1) The [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** may not increase the appropriations recommended by the [President] **PRIME MINISTER** 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] **PARLIAMENT** 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] **PRIME MINISTER**, [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] **PARLIAMENT** 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 re-enacted and shall remain in force and effect until the general appropriations bill is passed by the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT**.

Sec. [26.] **16.** (1) Every bill passed by the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** 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] **PRIME MINISTER** 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.] **17.** (1) Every bill passed by the [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** shall, before it becomes a law, be presented to the [President] **PRIME MINISTER**. 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] **PARLIAMENT**, which shall enter the objections at large in its Journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, [two-thirds] **MAJORITY** of all the Members of [such House] **THE PARLIAMENT** 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] **THE PARLIAMENT** 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] **PRIME MINISTER** shall communicate his veto of any bill to the [House where it originated] **PARLIAMENT** within thirty days after the date of receipt thereof, otherwise, it shall become a law as if he had signed it.

(2) The [President] **PRIME MINISTER** 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.] **18.** (1) The rule of taxation shall be uniform and equitable. The [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** shall evolve a progressive system of taxation.

(2) The [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** may, by law, authorize the [Presi-

dent] **PRIME MINISTER** 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 personages 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] **PARLIAMENT**.

Sec. [29.] 19. (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, 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] 20. 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] 21. No law granting a title of royalty or nobility shall be enacted.

Sec. [32.] 22. The [Congress] **PARLIAMENT** 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] **PARLIAMENT** 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.

12. After Section 22, as renumbered, the following new sections shall be added to Article VI to conform to the features of a unicameral Parliamentary-Federal system of gov-

ernment:

SEC. 23. (1) THE PARLIAMENT MAY WITHDRAW ITS CONFIDENCE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ONLY BY ELECTING A SUCCESSOR BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS. NO MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF SUCH SUCCESSOR SHALL BE DEBATED AND VOTED UPON UNTIL AFTER THE LAPSE OF THREE DAYS FROM THE SUBMITTAL OF SUCH MOTION.

2) THE PRIME MINISTER MAY ADVISE THE PRESIDENT IN WRITING TO DISSOLVE THE PARLIAMENT WHENEVER THE NEED ARISES FOR A POPULAR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES. WHEREUPON, THE PRESIDENT SHALL DISSOLVE THE PARLIAMENT NOT EARLIER THAN FIVE DAYS NOR LATER THAN TEN DAYS FROM HIS RECEIPT OF THE ADVICE, AND CALL FOR AN ELECTION ON A DATE SET BY THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH SHALL NOT BE EARLIER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS NOR LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SUCH DISSOLUTION. HOWEVER, NO DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A REGULAR ELECTION OR WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ANY GENERAL ELECTION.

(3) IN CASE OF DISSOLUTION OF THE PARLIAMENT OR THE TERMINATION OF ITS REGULAR TERM, THE INCUMBENT PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET SHALL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE NEW PARLIAMENT IS CONVOKED AND A PRIME MINISTER IS ELECTED AND HAS QUALIFIED. THE SECRETARY OF THE PARLIAMENT SHALL PRESIDE IN THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER.

SEC. 24. A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM PROVIDED FOR HEREIN SHALL BE INSTALLED WITHIN TEN (10) YEARS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THESE AMENDMENTS. THE PARLIAMENT SHALL PROVIDE BY LAW THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY INTO AS MANY "INDEPENDENT STATES", ALLOCATING UNIFORM POWERS THERETO, AND RESERVING TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POWERS ON NATIONAL DEFENSE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MONETARY POLICIES, AND SUCH OTHER POWERS IT MAY DEEM IMPERATIVE.

SEC. 25. THERE SHALL BE AN ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL COMPOSED OF THREE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT DESIGNATED BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE, AND OF SIX MEMBERS CHOSEN BY THE PARLIAMENT ON THE BASIS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES REPRESENTED THEREIN. THE SENIOR JUSTICE IN THE TRIBUNAL SHALL BE ITS CHAIRMAN. THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL SHALL BE THE SOLE JUDGE OF ALL CONTESTS RELATING TO THE ELECTION, RETURNS, AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.

SEC. 26. (1) THERE SHALL BE A COMMISSION ON IMPEACHMENT COMPOSED OF FIFTEEN CHOSEN BY THE PARLIAMENT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS ON THE BASIS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF THE PARTIES THEREIN. IT SHALL HAVE THE SOLE POWER OF IMPEACHMENT.

(2) THE PRESIDENT, THE JUSTICES 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.

(3) THE PARLIAMENT SHALL HAVE THE SOLE POWER TO TRY ALL IMPEACHMENTS. WHEN SITTING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE MEMBERS SHALL BE ON OATH OR AFFIRMATION. WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES IS ON TRIAL, THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT SHALL PRESIDE. NO PERSON SHALL BE CONVICTED WITHOUT THE CONCURRENCE OF TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE MEMBERS WHO DO NOT BELONG TO THE COMMISSION ON IMPEACHMENT.

SEC. 27. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CONSTITUTION, NO TREATY SHALL BE VALID AND EFFECTIVE UNLESS CONCURRED IN BY A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.

SEC. 28. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL SUBMIT TO THE PARLIAMENT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FROM THE OPENING OF EACH REGULAR SESSION, AS THE BASIS OF THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, A BUDGET OF RECEIPTS BASED ON EXISTING AND PROPOSED REVENUE MEASURES, AND OF EXPENDITURES.

13. All the sections of Article VII of the 1987 Constitution are hereby deleted except for Section 18 which is adopted as Section 12 of Article VII-A and Sections 21 and 22 which are transposed as Sections 27 and 28, respectively, of Article VI. The new sections of Article VII shall be read as follows:

ARTICLE VII

THE PRESIDENT

SECTION 1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE THE HEAD OF STATE.

SEC. 2. THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE ELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE HE TAKES HIS OATH OF OFFICE, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LATER THAN THREE DAYS AFTER HIS PROCLAMATION BY THE PARLIAMENT, NOR IN ANY CASE EARLIER THAN THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF HIS PREDECESSOR. UPON TAKING HIS OATH OF OFFICE, THE PRESIDENT SHALL CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT AND OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY. HE SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO HOLD ANY OTHER ELECTIVE OFFICE DURING HIS TERM.

SEC. 3. NO PERSON MAY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT UNLESS HE IS AT LEAST FIFTY YEARS OF AGE ON THE DAY OF HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT, AND A RESI-

DENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SUCH ELECTION. HOWEVER, IF NO MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT IS QUALIFIED OR NONE OF THOSE QUALIFIED IS A CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, ANY MEMBER THEREOF MAY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT.

SEC. 4. THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE AN OFFICIAL RESIDENCE AND SHALL RECEIVE A COMPENSATION TO BE FIXED BY LAW, WHICH SHALL NOT BE INCREASED OR DECREASED DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE. HE SHALL NOT RECEIVE DURING HIS TENURE ANY OTHER EMOLUMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER SOURCE. UNTIL THE PARLIAMENT SHALL PROVIDE OTHERWISE, THE PRESIDENT SHALL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL SALARY OF ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS.

SEC. 5. IN CASE OF PERMANENT DISABILITY, DEATH, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, OR RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT, THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL ACT AS PRESIDENT UNTIL A SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN ELECTED FOR THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE TERM OF THE PRESIDENT. THE ELECTION SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN TEN DAYS FROM THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CAUSE.

SEC. 6. THE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

- (1) ADDRESS THE PARLIAMENT AT THE OPENING OF ITS REGULAR SESSION;**
- (2) PROCLAIM THE ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER;**
- (3) DISSOLVE THE PARLIAMENT AND CALL FOR A GENERAL ELECTION AS PROVIDED HEREIN;**
- (4) ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF THE CABINET AS PROVIDED HEREIN;**
- (5) ATTEST TO THE APPOINTMENT OR CESSATION FROM OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND OF OTHER OFFICERS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW;**
- (6) APPOINT ALL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES IN HIS OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW; AND**
- (7) PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF STATE AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW.**

SEC. 7. THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM SUIT DURING HIS TENURE.

14. The new Article VII-A shall have the following sections:

ARTICLE VII-A

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET

SECTION 1. THE EXECUTIVE POWER SHALL BE EXERCISED BY THE PRIME

MINISTER WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CABINET. THE CABINET, HEADED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHALL CONSIST OF THE HEADS OF MINISTRIES AS PROVIDED BY LAW. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL BE THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT.

SEC. 2. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CABINET SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR THE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT AND SHALL DETERMINE THE GUIDELINES OF NATIONAL POLICY.

SEC. 3. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL BE ELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT FROM AMONG THEMSELVES.

SEC. 4. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET WHO SHALL BE THE HEADS OF MINISTRIES AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF WHOM SHALL COME FROM THE PARLIAMENT. MEMBERS OF THE CABINET MAY BE REMOVED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

SEC. 5. (1) THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL APPOINT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S SHALL HEAD A MINISTRY AND SHALL PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE ASSIGNED TO THE OFFICE BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

(2) THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL ALSO APPOINT THE DEPUTY MINISTERS WHO SHALL PERFORM SUCH FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE ASSIGNED TO THEM BY LAW OR BY THE RESPECTIVE HEADS OF MINISTRIES. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO THOSE IN THE CAREER SERVICE.

SEC. 6. THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, ON ASSUMING OFFICE, SHALL TAKE THE FOLLOWING OATH OR AFFIRMATION:

“I do solemnly swear (of affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as (name of position) 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, the last sentence will be omitted)*

SEC. 7. THE SALARIES AND EMOLUMENTS OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET SHALL BE FIXED BY LAW WHICH SHALL NOT BE INCREASED OR DECREASED DURING THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE. UNTIL OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL RECEIVE THE SAME SALARY AS THAT OF THE PRESIDENT.

SEC. 8. THE PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME DISQUALIFICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS AS THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.

SEC. 9. THE PRIME MINISTER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER/S, OR ANY MEMBER

OF THE CABINET MAY RESIGN FOR ANY CAUSE WITHOUT VACATING HIS SEAT IN THE PARLIAMENT.

SEC. 10. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL, AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH REGULAR SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND FROM TIME TO TIME THEREAFTER, PRESENT THE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT AND RECOMMEND FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PARLIAMENT SUCH MEASURES AS HE MAY DEEM NECESSARY AND PROPER.

SEC. 11. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL HAVE CONTROL OF ALL MINISTRIES.

SEC. 12. The **PRIME MINISTER** 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 **PRIME MINISTER** shall submit a report in person or in writing to the **PARLIAMENT**. The **PARLIAMENT**, 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 **PRIME MINISTER**. Upon the initiative of the **PRIME MINISTER**, the **PARLIAMENT** may, in the same manner, extend such proclamation or suspension for a period to be determined by the **PARLIAMENT**, if the invasion or rebellion shall persist and public safety requires it.

The **PARLIAMENT**, 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 of habeas corpus 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 of habeas corpus.

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

SEC. 13. THE PRIME MINISTER SHALL APPOINT THE HEADS OF BUREAUS AND OFFICES, THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL OR COMMODORE, AND ALL OTHER OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT HEREIN OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR, AND THOSE WHOM HE MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO APPOINT.

HOWEVER, THE PARLIAMENT MAY BY LAW VEST IN MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, COURTS, HEADS OF AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARDS THE POWER TO APPOINT INFERIOR OFFICERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES.

SEC. 14. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY, EXCEPT IN CASES OF IMPEACHMENT GRANT REPRIEVES, COMMUTATIONS, AND PARDONS, REMIT FINES AND FORFEITURES AFTER FINAL CONVICTION, AND WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF A MAJORITY OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, GRANT AMNESTY.

SEC. 15. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY CONTRACT AND GUARANTEE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC LOANS ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, SUBJECT TO SUCH LIMITATIONS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW.

**ARTICLE VIII
(JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT)**

15. The second paragraph of Section 1 shall be deleted.

16. The word “a” between the words “and” and “representative” in Section 8 shall be deleted, and in lieu thereof the word “TWO” shall be inserted. Consequently, the word “representative” shall be replaced by “representatives”.

17. Sub-section (2) of Section 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

“THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. THE INCUMBENT REGULAR MEMBERS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR TERMS.”

18. The words “JUSTICES AND” shall be inserted in between the words “and” and “judges” in the first sentence of Section 9. Consequently, the words “JUSTICES AND” shall be inserted in between the phrase “and of” and “judges of lower courts” in Section 10.

19. Section 11 shall be amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11. The Members of the Supreme Court, AND JUSTICES and judges of lower courts shall hold office during good behavior until they reach the age of seventy-FIVE years or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office. THEY SHALL HAVE THE OPTION TO RETIRE AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY YEARS WITH FULL BENEFITS. The Supreme Court *en banc* shall have the power to discipline JUSTICES AND 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.”

20. The word “twenty-four” in Section 15 (1) shall be replaced with the word “EIGH-

TEEN”.

**ARTICLE IX
(CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS)**

21. Sub-section (2) of Section 1, Sub-articles B, C and D shall be amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. (2) THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS WITHOUT IMMEDIATE REAPPOINTMENT. THE INCUMBENT CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO SERVE OUT THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMS. 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.”

22. Section 6 of Sub-article C shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. POLITICAL PARTIES MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND MUST RECEIVE EQUITABLE SUBSIDY FROM GOVERNMENT. INCUMBENT ELECTIVE OFFICIALS SHALL FORFEIT THEIR SEATS IF THEY CHANGE PARTIES WITHIN ONE YEAR BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTIONS.”

23. The sentence “THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD SHALL START FORTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION DAY, EXCEPTING THEREFROM LEGAL HOLIDAYS AND THE SUNDAY BEFORE ELECTION DAY.” shall be added in Section 9 of Sub-article C.

**ARTICLE X
(LOCAL GOVERNMENT)**

24. The last sentence in Section 1 shall be deleted and in lieu thereof insert the sentence “THE EXISTING AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO SHALL CONTINUE UNTIL THE ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERAL SYSTEM AS HEREIN MANDATED.”

25. In Section 6, the phrase “, SUBJECT TO THE MECHANISM OF RETENTION UNDER A FEDERAL SYSTEM.” shall be inserted after the word “them”.

26. Section 8 shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTIVE LOCAL OFFICIALS,

EXCEPT BARANGAY OFFICIALS, WHICH SHALL BE DETERMINED BY LAW, SHALL BE FIVE YEARS.”

- 27. Section 9 shall be deleted and the subsequent sections shall be correspondingly renumbered.**
- 28. The sentence “THEY SHALL CORRESPONDINGLY BE ADJUSTED AND ALIGNED UNDER A FEDERAL SYSTEM MANDATED HEREIN.” shall be added to the last sentence of Section 14, as renumbered.**
- 29. In the second sentence of Section 17, as renumbered, the word “elective” shall be replaced with the word “reflective”.**
- 30. Section 19 shall be deleted and the subsequent sections shall be correspondingly renumbered.**

**ARTICLE XI
(ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS)**

- 31. The words “the Vice-President” shall be deleted in Section 2.**
- 32. Section 3 shall be amended to read as follows:**

“SEC. 3. (1) THE COMMISSION ON IMPEACHMENT SHALL HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE POWER TO INITIATE ALL CASES OF IMPEACHMENT.

(2) A VERIFIED COMPLAINT MAY BE FILED BY ANY MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT 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 COMMISSION WITHIN THREE SESSION DAYS THEREAFTER. THE COMMISSION, AFTER HEARING, AND BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL ITS MEMBERS, SHALL SUBMIT ITS REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT WITHIN SIXTY SESSION DAYS FROM SUCH REFERRAL, TOGETHER WITH THE CORRESPONDING RESOLUTION, EITHER DISMISSING THE COMPLAINT OR RECOMMENDING TRIAL. THE RESOLUTION SHALL BE CALENDARIED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARLIAMENT WITHIN TEN SESSION DAYS FROM RECEIPT THEREOF. A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT MAY EITHER REJECT OR APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

(3) A VOTE OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT SHALL BE NECESSARY TO CONVICT ON IMPEACHMENT. THE VOTE OF EACH MEMBER SHALL BE RECORDED.

(4) NO IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS SHALL BE INITIATED AGAINST THE SAME OFFICIAL MORE THAN ONCE WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR STARTING FROM THE SUBMISSION OF THE REPORT AND/OR RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENT.

(5) JUDGMENT IN CASES OF IMPEACHMENT SHALL NOT EXTEND FURTHER THAN TO REMOVAL FROM OFFICE AND DISQUALIFICATION TO HOLD AND ENJOY ANY OFFICE OF HONOR, TRUST, OR PROFIT UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, BUT CONVICTION SHALL NOT BE A BAR TO PROSECUTION, AND PUNISHMENT IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF LAW.

(6) THE PARLIAMENT SHALL PROMULGATE ITS RULES ON IMPEACHMENT TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION.”

33. Section 5 shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. 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, AND A SEPARATE DEPUTY FOR THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, SHALL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS NOW ORGANIZED, OR AS MAY BE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW.”

34. The phrase “Tanodbayan shall hereafter be known as the” in between the words “existing” and “Office” in Section 7 shall be deleted to be read as follows:

Sec. 7. The existing Office of the Special Prosecutor 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.

35. The phrase “in Section 2 of Article IX-A of this Constitution.” in the second paragraph of Section 8 shall be replaced with the phrase “THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.”

36. Section 9 shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. THE OMBUDSMAN AND HIS DEPUTIES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER FROM A LIST OF THREE NOMINEES PREPARED BY THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL, AND SUCH APPOINTMENTS SHALL REQUIRE NO CONFIRMATION. ALL VACANCIES SHALL BE FILLED WITHIN THREE MONTHS AFTER THEY OCCUR.”

37. The word ‘IMMEDIATE’ shall be inserted in between the words “without” and “reappointment” in Section 11 hereof

38. Section 16 shall be amended to read as follows:

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 PRIME MINISTER, THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, THE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT, THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSIONS, OR TO ANY FIRM OR ENTITY IN WHICH THEY HAVE CONTROLLING INTEREST, DURING THEIR TENURE.

**ARTICLE XII
(NATIONAL ECONOMY AND PATRIMONY)**

39. The sentence **“BUT PARLIAMENT MAY PROVIDE BY LAW OWNERSHIP OF RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LANDS BY FOREIGNERS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE COUNTRY UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FILIPINO CITIZENS.”** shall be added to the second paragraph of Section 1.

40. The phrase **“or corporations or associations at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens”** after the words **“Filipino citizens”** in the first paragraph, third sentence of Section 2, shall be replaced with the phrase **“OR WITH ANY CORPORATION OR ASSOCIATION, DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN.”**

41. The words **“twenty-five”** in between the words **“exceeding”** and **“years”** in the fourth sentence and **“twelve”** in between **“than”** and **“hectares”** in the last sentence of paragraph 1 of Section 3 shall be deleted and in lieu thereof insert the words **“FIFTY”** and **“TWENTY-FOUR”**, respectively.

42. The phrase **“at least sixty per centum of whose capital is owned by such citizens”** in the first sentence and the phrase **“, and all the executive and managing officers of such corporation or association must be citizens of the Philippines”** in the last sentence of Section 11 are hereby deleted.

43. A new section shall be inserted as Section 12 to be read as follows, and sections 12 to 22 shall be renumbered accordingly:

SEC. 12. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 2 AND 11 HEREOF, CITIZENSHIP RESTRICTIONS ARE HEREBY LIFTED RELATIVE TO THE OWNERSHIP AND LEASE OF ALIEANABLE LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN WHICH INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, COM-

MERCIAL AND RECLAIMED LANDS, DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OWNERSHIP OF FRANCHISES AND OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, MASS MEDIA, EDUCATION, INSURANCE AND ADVERTISING, UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW. PARLIAMENT SHALL PROVIDE FOR LIMITED FOREIGN OWNERSHIP IN REGARD TO FRANCHISES GRANTED TO CORPORATIONS INVOLVING PUBLIC UTILITIES OF LARGE SCALE.

**ARTICLE XIV
(EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ARTS, CULTURE, AND SPORTS)**

44. The word “auxiliary” in between the words “the” and “official” and, in between the words “as” and “media” in the second paragraph of Section 7 is hereby deleted.

**ARTICLE XVI
(GENERAL PROVISIONS)**

45. Section 11 shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. THE PARLIAMENT 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.”

46. Section 12 shall be amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. 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. 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.

47. All references relating to Congress, House of Representatives, and/or Senate of the Philippines shall mean Parliament and those to President shall mean Prime Minister.

**ARTICLE XVIII
(TRANSITORY PROVISIONS)**

48. Article XVIII shall be replaced with new sections to read as follows:

SECTION 1. THE UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND THE PARLIAMENT PROVIDED HEREIN SHALL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER RATIFICATION OF THESE AMENDMENTS, WITH THE PRESENT CONGRESS CONVERTED INTO THE IN-

TERIM PARLIAMENT AND ALL MEMBERS THEREOF SHALL BECOME AUTOMATIC MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM PARLIAMENT UNTIL JUNE 30, 2007, EXCEPT FOR THE SENATORS ELECTED IN MAY 2004 WHO SHALL SERVE AS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT UNTIL JUNE 30, 2010. THE INTERIM PARLIAMENT SHALL SET THE FIRST ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, AND SYNCHRONIZE THEREWITH THE ELECTIONS FOR ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS EXCEPT THOSE OF THE BARANGAY.

SEC. 2. THE INCUMBENT VICE PRESIDENT SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT AND OF THE CABINET UNTIL JUNE 30, 2010. HE SHALL PRESIDE OVER THE PARLIAMENT FOR THE IMMEDIATE ELECTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, UPON NOMINATION OF THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT. THEREAFTER, THE PARLIAMENT SHALL ELECT THE SPEAKER, AND BOTH SHALL ASSUME THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES IMMEDIATELY.

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 COURTS EXISTING AT THE TIME OF THE RATIFICATION OF THESE AMENDMENTS 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 PARLIAMENT.

SEC. 5. THE EXTENSION IN RETIREMENT AGE UNDER SECTION 11 OF ARTICLE VIII SHALL APPLY ONLY TO THOSE APPOINTED AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF THESE AMENDMENTS.

SEC. 6. FROM THE RATIFICATION OF THE FOREGOING AMENDMENTS TO JUNE 30, 2010, THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT SHALL CONTINUE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO EXERCISE THE SAME POWERS EXCEPT THOSE TO BE DELEGATED TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT, CONFORMABLY WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM.

SEC. 7. THE PARLIAMENT SHALL IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE BY LAW THE GENERAL REDISTRICTING OF ALL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS PROVIDED HEREIN.

SEC. 8. ALL OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT, OR GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, SHALL REMAIN IN OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTMENTS OR TERMS OF OFFICE, UNLESS SOONER REMOVED FROM OFFICE FOR CAUSE, OR BECOME INCAPACITATED TO DISCHARGE THE DUTIES OF THEIR OFFICE.

SEC. 9. ALL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE PRESENT CONGRESS WHO

MAY BE SEPARATED FROM THE SERVICE NOT FOR CAUSE BUT AS A RESULT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO APPROPRIATE SEPARATION PAY AND TO RETIREMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THEM UNDER SUCH LAWS AS MAY BE IN FORCE AT THE TIME OF THEIR SEPARATION, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO SUCH OTHER BENEFITS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW, AS DETERMINED BY THE INTERIM PARLIAMENT. AT THE OPTION OF THE EMPLOYEES/OFFICIALS CONCERNED, THEY MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR EMPLOYMENT IN GOVERNMENT, OR IN ANY OF ITS SUBDIVISIONS, INSTRUMENTALITIES OR AGENCIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS.

SEC. 10. 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 CONSTITUTIONS.

ADOPTED,