

RULES OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

RULE I CONSTITUENT POWER

Section 1. Any amendment to, or revision of, the Constitution may be proposed by the Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members.

Section. 2. A constituent assembly to propose amendments to the Constitution may be called by three-fourths of all Members of Congress in a resolution adopted for this purpose.

Section 3. When proposing amendments to the Constitution, Members of Congress act, not as Representatives and/or Senators, but as component elements of a constituent assembly exercising constituent power which is separate and distinct from legislative power.

RULE II OFFICERS

Section 4. A majority of all the Members of Congress sitting in a Constituent Assembly shall elect the following officers:

- (a) Presiding Officer
- (b) Deputy Presiding Officer
- (c) Majority Floor Leader
- (d) Secretary
- (e) Sergeant-at-Arms

Section 5. The foregoing officers shall exercise the powers and functions inherent to their respective offices.

Section 6. The Presiding Officer shall appoint the staff of the secretariat.

RULE III QUORUM

Section 7. A majority of all the Members of Congress shall constitute a quorum to conduct business in plenary session.

RULE IV PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND VOTING

Section 8. Any Member of Congress may introduce to the Plenary, through the Majority Floor Leader, proposed amendments to the Constitution either as individual amendments or package of amendments.

Section 9. A majority of all the Members of Congress present shall decide whether an amendment shall be considered and voted upon individually or as a package of amendments.

Section 10. The vote of three-fourths of all Members of Congress approving individual amendments or package of amendments shall be duly recorded in a roll call vote.

RULE V SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Section 11. The Presiding Officer shall certify and submit immediately to the Commission on Elections the approved proposed amendments for ratification in a plebiscite pursuant to Section 4 of Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution.

RULE VI ADOPTION OF THESE RULES

Section 12. A vote of a majority of all the Members of the Congress shall be necessary for the adoption of or amendment to these Rules.

RULE VII SUPPLEMENTARY PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES

Section 13. The parliamentary practices of the Philippine Assembly, the House of Representatives, the Senate of the Philippines and the Batasan Pambansa shall be supplementary to these Rules.

RULE VIII EFFECTIVITY

Section 14. These Rules shall take effect on the date of their adoption.

SIMPLIFIED PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS

I] Articles VI and VII of the 1987 Constitution are hereby amended, modified, or revised, to the extent necessary for the establishment of a Unicameral Parliamentary system of government in substitution for the present bicameral presidential, and for this purpose the following provisions are hereby adopted:

- 1) The legislative power 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, legislative 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. Existing Legislative Districts, Provinces, and highly urbanized cities shall have at least one Member each.
- 2) Each Region as now existing or as may be created or redefined by law, shall have two Members in Parliament, elected by the registered voters in the Region. The Parliament shall also include as Members thereof those who, as provided by law, shall be elected through a Partylist system of registered national, regional, political, and sectoral parties or organizations, whose number shall constitute twenty percent of the total number of Legislative Districts and Regional Members.
- 3) The Members of Parliament shall be elected by the qualified electors in their respective Districts or Regions, except those under the Partylist, for a term of five years beginning on the second Monday of May 2010 and every five years thereafter. No person shall be elected Member of Parliament 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, a registered voter in the district or in the Region 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, except those under the Partylist.
- 4) The Parliament shall elect from among the Members thereof the Prime Minister who shall be the head of the government and of the cabinet, as well as its Speaker, and such other positions it may create.
- 5) There shall be an Electoral Tribunal composed of three Justices of the Supreme Court designated by the Chief Justice and six Members chosen by the Parliament on the basis of proportional representation of the Parties therein. With the senior Justice as Chairman, the Tribunal shall be the sole judge of all contests relating to the election, returns, and qualifications of the Members of the Parliament.
- 6) There shall be a commission on impeachment composed of fifteen Members of Parliament chosen on the basis of proportional representation of the Parties therein. It shall have the sole power of impeachment by a majority vote of all its Members. The Parliament shall try all impeachment cases elevated to it, and a vote of at least two-thirds of all the Members shall be necessary to convict on impeachment.

7) Any reference in the 1987 Constitution to the Congress, the Senate or the House of Representatives, shall mean the "Parliament", and any reference therein to the President shall mean the Prime Minister. Except as may be inconsistent with the foregoing provisions and the unicameral parliamentary system herein established, all other provisions of the 1987 Constitution remain effective and valid.

II] TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

- 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 interim parliament and all members thereof shall become automatic MEMBERS of the interim Parliament.
- 2) The interim Parliament, presided over by the incumbent Vice President, shall elect among its Members the interim Prime Minister (upon nomination of the incumbent President). Thereafter, the interim Parliament shall elect its speaker to whom, after the necessary oath, the Vice President shall turn over the power as presiding officer.
- 3) The incumbent President and Vice President whose terms expire on June 30, 2010 shall retain the same powers and accountability, subject only to the inherent modifications herein and to the extent that the incumbent President may delegate to the interim Prime Minister powers over the ministries and of the cabinet as Chief Operating Officer of the government conformably with the Parliamentary system. The Vice President shall be automatic Member of Parliament and of the Cabinet during his term. The President shall appoint the heads of the various ministries at least seventy percent of whom shall be Members of Parliament. *INTERIM*
- 4) The interim Parliament composed of the incumbent members of Congress shall last until noontime of December 30, 2007, together with all local officials except the Barangays. The elections for the next interim Parliament and all local officials, except the Barangays, shall be held on the second Monday of November 2007 and the terms of office of those elected shall begin noontime of December 30, 2007 until June 30, 2010, any provision of the present Constitution or any law to the contrary notwithstanding.
- 5) The Senators elected in May 2004 whose terms of office expire on June 30, 2010 shall continue to be automatic Members of the next interim Parliament until such date without having to run for election on the second Monday of November 2007.