

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1187, August 27, 1977 ]

## **PROVIDING FOR A GENERAL REGISTRATION OF ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES.**

**WHEREAS**, an accurate and complete listing of all qualified voters in a constituency is indispensable to the holding of free, orderly and honest elections, plebiscite and referenda;

**WHEREAS**, the registration of voters through the permanent and continuing system established under the Election Code of 1971 has not been implemented since the ratification on January 17, 1973 of the 1973 Constitution, due to certain provisions of the new Chapter which rendered some aspects of the system inoperative;

**WHEREAS**, the 1973 Constitution reduced the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen and enfranchised illiterate citizens possessing the necessary qualifications;

**WHEREAS**, there is necessity to update the list of qualified voters throughout the Philippines to assure that the results of elections, plebiscites and referenda shall be truly reflective of the will of the people;

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, specific problems usually confronting the voters on election day, such as locating their place of voting, identifying themselves as voters, etc. are expected to be obviated if a new and general registration of qualified voters is undertaken;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, hereby decree:

SECTION. 1 *General Registration of Qualified Voters.*-In all voting centers throughout the Philippines on the date or dates to be fixed by law, which shall not be later than the end of October, 1977.

SEC. 2. *Permanent and Continuing System of Registration.*-Notwithstanding the registration herein provided, any qualified voter may register under the permanent and continuing system of registration as provided in Presidential Decree No. 1099, dated February 25, 1977.

SEC. 3. *Necessity of Registration.*-A qualified voter must be duly registered as such to entitle him to cast his vote in any election, plebiscite or referendum.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications of a voter.*-Any citizen of the Philippines, not otherwise disqualified by law, eighteen years of age or over, who has resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the city, municipality or municipal district where he proposes to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election, may register as a voter.

Any person who cannot read and write or who is physically unable to write his application for registration but who possesses all the qualifications of a voter and none of the disqualifications may register in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

SEC. 5. *Disqualifications.*-The following shall be disqualified from registering:

(a) Any person who has been sentenced by final judgement to suffer imprisonment for not less than one year, such disability not having been removed by plenary pardon; *Provided, however,* That any person disqualified to vote under this paragraph shall automatically reacquire the right to vote upon expiration of ten years after service of sentence unless during such period, he shall have been sentenced by final judgment to suffer an imprisonment of not less than one year.

(b) Any person who has been adjudged by final judgment by competent court or tribunal of having violated his oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.

(c) Insane or feeble-minded persons.

(d) Persons suffering temporary special disqualifications from exercising the right of suffrage in accordance with existing law.

SEC. 6. *Appointment of registration committee.*-The Commission shall, directly or through its duly authorized representatives, appoint, at least ten days before the registration day a citizen registration committee for each voting center to be composed of a chairman, a poll clerk, and a third member. The chairman and the poll clerk, shall be public school teachers. The third member shall be a member of the barangay council, to be proposed by the barangay captain.

SEC. 7. *Qualifications of members of the registration committee.*-No person shall be appointed nor shall act as chairman or member of the registration committee or substitute, unless he is of good moral character and irreproachable reputation, a qualified voter of the municipality, has never been convicted of any election offense. Or of any other crime punishable by more than six months of imprisonment, or if he has pending case against him on information for any election offense. He must know how to speak and write English or the local dialect.

SEC. 8. *Powers of the Registration Committee.*-The citizens registration committee shall have the following powers and functions:

a. Undertake the registration of voters as authorized herein;

b. Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the registration in the centers wherein they are assigned to assure that registration of qualified voters shall be done in a free, orderly and honest manner;

c. Perform such other functions prescribed by this Decree or by the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission.

SEC. 9. *Voting centers to be used for Registration Purposes.*-Without prejudice to the establishment of new voting centers, transfer, merger or splitting of existing ones, the voting centers which functioned as such during the referendum-plebiscite of October 1976 shall be used as the centers for purposes of the registration of voters.

SEC. 10. *Creation of new voting centers.*-In places where there are no existing voting centers and there are at least two hundred voters, the Commission may authorize the establishment of new voting centers or take steps to place such areas under existing voting centers. Said centers shall, as far as practicable, be located in public school buildings or other public buildings upon consultation with local officials and other persons concerned.

The creation of new voting centers shall be communicated to the Division Superintendent of Schools and the Provincial Election Supervisor concerned in order that the corresponding members of the election committees may be duly appointed.

SEC. 11. *Application for Registration.*-Every person desiring to be registered shall personally appear before the citizens election committee in the voting center nearest his place of residence and, under oath taken before the said citizens election committee, sign and affix the imprint of the thumb of his right and left hands to a statement in triplicate, wherein the following appear:

- (a) Name, Surname, and middle maternal surname;
- (b) Date and place of birth;
- (c) Citizenship;
- (d) Sector, if any
- (e) Periods of residence in the Philippines and in the place of registration;
- (f) Exact address with the name of the street and the house number, or in case there be none, a brief description of the locality and place;
- (g) A statement that he possesses all the qualifications required of a voter and that he is not in any way legally disqualified from voting;
- (h) A statement that he has not applied for registration with the election registrar or in any other voting center.

SEC. 12. *Use of 1971 Book Voters.*-Whenever practicable and in order to facilitate the registration of voters especially of those previously registered in the 1971 elections, the Commission on Elections may authorize the delivery to the proper voting center of the voters affidavits from the City or Municipal File of each City or Municipality, which shall be validated and properly entered in the list of voters whenever warranted.

SEC. 13. *Illiterate or disabled applicants.*-Any applicant for registration who is illiterate or physically unable to prepare the application by himself may appear before the citizens election committee in the voting center nearest his place of residence, accompanied by a person of his confidence, preferably a relative by affinity or consanguinity within the fourth civil degree. The person thus chosen shall prepare the application for registration in accordance with the data supplied by the applicant. The illiterate or disabled applicant shall be required to affix the thumbmarks of his left and right hands in the presence of the citizens election committee.

SEC. 14. *Identification of applicants.*-Any applicant for registration who is not known to the members of the citizens election committee may be identified by any voter of the barangay or by the production of any paper or document showing his identity.

SEC. 15. *Approval or disapproval of application.*-Upon receipt of the sworn