

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 637, January 07, 1975 ]

## **ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS CONCERNING THE QUESTIONS FOR SUBMISSION IN THE JANUARY 30, 1975 REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR AN INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE DISSEMINATION AND EXPLANATION OF THE QUESTIONS INCLUDING THE TRANSLATION THEREOF INTO THE MAJOR DIALECTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the powers granted it under Proclamation No. 1366, promulgated on December 31, 1974, the Commission on Elections has resolved to recommend the questions to be resolved and determined by the members of barangays (citizens assemblies) in the National Referendum on January 30, 1975;

**WHEREAS**, I am satisfied that these questions were formulated by the Commission on Elections after due and extensive consultations with the people on a nationwide scale and has taken steps through other various ways to ascertain the issues uppermost in the mind of the nation;

**WHEREAS**, in order to enable the barangay members to cast their votes intelligently and with full understanding of the issues involved, it is urgent to wage in all areas an effective, intensive, massive educational and information campaign particularly in the urban and rural communities:

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

**SECTION 1. Referendum Questions.** — The questions to be submitted in the January 30, 1975, shall be as follows:

### I

For the Greater Manila Area comprising the cities of Manila, Quezon, Pasay, and Caloocan; and the municipalities of Valenzuela in the province of Bulacan and Las Piñas; Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pateros, San Juan del Monte, Taguig, Pasig and Marikina in the province of Rizal;

#### *On Local Officials*

1. There are proposals to restructure the government of Greater Manila (four cities and 13 municipalities) into an integrated Manager-Commission type appointed by the President. Under these proposals, the cities and municipalities concerned shall retain their political identities and boundaries as well as their government organization; the present elective officials, unless sooner removed by the President may be retained up to December 31, 1975, when their terms end, but shall not exercise powers pertaining to appropriations, taxation and appointments. Do you favor this proposal?

### *On Martial Law*

1. Inherent in his powers as Commander-in-Chief and under the Constitution ratified and formally adopted by the people on January 17, 1973, the President of the Philippines has been issuing proclamations, orders, decrees and instructions with the force of law. Do you approve of the manner the President has exercised this power?
2. Do you want the President to continue exercising the same?
3. There are suggestions that martial law be lifted. Do you want martial law to continue?

### *On the Legislative Body*

1. In the January, 1973 referendum, the people decided that there be no elections in the meantime and the interim Assembly should not be convened by the President.

Now do you want the President to convene the interim National Assembly immediately?

## II

### *For areas outside of the Greater Manila Area.*

### *On Local Officials*

1. The terms of office of your local elective officials expire on December 31, 1975. Do you want their successors to be appointed by the President or elected in accordance with the Constitution?

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### *On the Legislative Body*

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Do you want the President to convene the interim National Assembly immediately?