

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 217, August 19, 1939]

PRESCRIBING CERTAIN CIVIC AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES TO BE TAUGHT IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Whereas section five of Article XIII of the Constitution provides that all schools shall aim to develop moral character, personal discipline, civic conscience, and to teach the duties of citizenship;

Whereas in order to comply with the above constitutional provision, it is necessary that a Code of Citizenship and Ethics be adopted and taught in the schools;

Whereas, pending the formulation of such a code by a committee representing the various elements of the community and the adoption thereof, it is essential that the schools should at once take steps in order to effectuate the mandate of the Constitution in this respect;

Now, therefore, I, Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me under the Constitution, do hereby direct the Secretary of Public Instruction to require all schools to teach the following civic and ethical principles, drafted by a group of eminent citizens:

1. Have faith in Divine Providence that guides the destinies of men and nations.
2. Love your country for it is the home of your people, the seat of your affections, and the source of your happiness and well-being. Its defense is your primary duty. Be ready at all times to sacrifice and die for it if necessary.
3. Respect the Constitution which is the expression of your sovereign will. The government is your government. It has been established for your safety and welfare. Obey the laws and see that they are observed by all and that public officials comply with their duties.
4. Pay your taxes willingly and promptly. Citizenship implies not only rights but also obligations.
5. Safeguard the purity of suffrage and abide by the decisions of the majority.
6. Love and respect your parents. It is your duty to serve them gratefully and well.
7. Value your honor as you value your life. Poverty with honor is preferable to wealth with dishonor.
8. Be truthful and be honest in thought and in action. Be just and charitable, courteous but dignified in your dealings with your fellow men.