

[BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 125, April 20, 1981]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the Batasang Pambansa in session assembled:

SECTION 1. *Date of election.*—The election for President under the Constitution, as amended, shall be held on June 16, 1981.

SEC. 2. *Direct vote.*—All registered voters shall be entitled to vote in the election herein provided.

SEC. 3. *Registration in the voting center and preparation of the list of voters.*—The Citizens Election Committee, in voting centers determined by the Commission on Elections, shall meet on May 30, 1981, to receive and act on applications for registration of qualified voters, from seven o'clock in the morning to four o'clock in the afternoon. Thereafter, the Citizens Election Committee shall immediately continue its meeting to prepare the list of voters in accordance with the Election Code of 1978. No further registration shall be allowed within ten days prior to the day of election. For this purpose, the Election Registrar shall deliver to the Citizens Election Committee the Precinct Book of Voters corresponding to the voting center concerned.

SEC. 4. *Certificate of candidacy.*—No person shall be elected President of the Philippines unless he files in triplicate with the Commission on Elections, not later than April 28, 1981, a sworn certificate of candidacy in the form prescribed by the Commission on Elections in accordance with the 1978 Election Code.

SEC. 5. *Nomination of official candidates.*—Political parties, coalitions, and other similar groups or organizations shall submit to the Commission on Elections a certificate of nomination of their respective official candidates not later than April 28, 1981.

SEC. 6. *Election and campaign periods.*—The election period shall be fixed by the Commission on Elections in accordance with Section 6, Article XII (C) of the Constitution. The campaign period shall commence on April 24, 1981 and terminate on June 14, 1981.

SEC. 7. *Composition of Citizens Election Committees.*— For purposes of the election herein provided, the Commission on Elections shall directly or through its duly authorized representatives, appoint a Citizens Election Committee for each election precinct to be composed of a chairman and four members, one of whom shall be designated concurrently as poll clerk.

The chairman, the poll clerk and one member, as well as their corresponding substitutes, shall be public school teachers, precedence being given to civil service eligibles who have been in the service for more than five years and are registered voters of the city, municipality or municipal district. The public school teachers and other individuals who served in the Citizens Plebiscite Committees on April 7, 1981

shall continue to serve in the same polling centers, subject to the power of the Commission on Elections to make new appointments or transfers whenever the need arises.

The appointment of the other two members and their substitutes shall be proposed by the accredited political parties.

SEC. 8. *Pay of chairman and members of the Citizens Election Committee.*—The chairman and members of the Citizens Election Committee shall each receive a per diem of fifty pesos on election day and twenty-five pesos for every meeting day before election. The per diem shall be paid on election day and on each meeting day.

SEC. 9. *Election returns.*—The Citizens Election Committee shall prepare in handwriting and sign the returns of the election in quintuplicate in their respective voting centers on a form to be prescribed by the Commission on Elections. One copy shall be deposited in the compartment of the ballot box for valid ballots, and in the case of municipalities or municipal districts, two copies including the original copy shall be handed to the municipal Election Registrar who shall immediately deliver the original copy to the Provincial Election Officer and forward the other copy to the Commission on Elections, and one copy each to the authorized representatives of the accredited political parties or groups. In the case of cities, the City Registrar shall retain the original copy and forward the other copy to the Commission on Elections.

SEC. 10. *Composition and appointment of Provincial and City Boards of Canvassers.* — (1) The Provincial Board of Canvassers shall be composed of the Provincial Election Officer or a representative of the Commission on Elections, as chairman, and the following as members: the Provincial Fiscal, the Division or Provincial Superintendent of Schools, and two representatives of the accredited political parties: *Provided*, That in case there are two or more Division Superintendents of Schools in a province, the Commission shall appoint as member the more senior superintendent who is not a native of the province.

(2) The City Board of Canvassers shall be composed of a representative of the Commission on Elections who should be a lawyer, as chairman, and the following as members: the City Fiscal, City Superintendent of Schools, and two representatives of the accredited political parties.

SEC. 11. *Canvass by the Provincial and City Boards of Canvassers.*—The Provincial or City Boards of Canvassers, as the case may be, shall meet not later than six o'clock in the evening on election day to canvass the returns that may have already been received by them, respectively. It shall meet continuously from day to day until the canvass is completed, but may adjourn only for the purpose of awaiting the other election returns. Each time the board adjourns it shall make a total of all the votes cast for each candidate for President, furnishing the Commission on Elections in Manila by the fastest means of communication a copy thereof, and making available the data contained therein to mass media and other interested parties. As soon as the other election returns are delivered, the Board shall immediately resume canvassing until all the votes cast in the province or city have been canvassed. Upon the completion of the canvass, the board shall make a statement of all votes received by each candidate for the office of the President. Upon the