**PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION**

1. **The Philippine Constitution –** It is that written instrument by which the fundamental powers of the Philippine government are established, limited and defined and by which their power is distributed among several branches for the benefit of the people.
2. **Constitution of Liberty, Government & Sovereignty –** The 1987 Philippine Constitution contains at least 3 sets of provisions.
3. **The Supreme Court –** The government branch that has the duty to ascertain and give effect to the intent of the Constitutional provisions as adopted or approved by its framers.
4. **Two – Thirds Majority –** The “Rule of the Majority” is an unwritten law of a democratic government. For the Congress to declare the existence of a state of war or to call a constitutional convention, **two – thirds majority** votes of all its’ respected members is required.
5. **Rule of Law –** This constitutional principle is meant that no man in the country, not even the government, is above or beyond the law.
6. **Democratic –** **Republican –** “The Philippines is a **Democratic** and **Republican** state. Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.”
7. **Civilian –** The Philippine Constitution explicitly recognize that **Civilian** authority, at all times supreme over the military. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State.
8. **Senate and the House of Representatives –** The legislative power shall be vested in the Congress of the Philippines which shall consist of **Senate and the House of Representatives**
9. **Six (6) years –** Term of office for the Senate members under the 1987 Constitution shall be **Six (6) years.**
10. **Three (3) years –** Term of office for the members of the House of Representatives under the 1987 Constitution.
11. **The President –** The Executive power shall be vested upon **the President.**
12. **Six (6) years –** The President and the Vice President shall have the same term of office for **Six (6) years** under the 1987 Constitution
13. **The Supreme Court –** Shall be the SOLE JUDGE of electoral disputes involving the President – elect and the Vice – President elect under the 1987 Constitution
14. **The Legislature –** It shall have the EXCLUSIVE power to INITIATE all cases of impeachment under the 1987 Constitution.
15. **The Senate –** It shall have the SOLE power to TRY all cases of Impeachment.
16. **Indigenous Cultural Groups –** Refers to those non-dominant groups in our country which possess and which to preserve ethnic, religious or linguistic traditions markedly different from the rest.
17. **Bill of Rights –** It is the declaration and enumeration of the individual rights and privileges which the Constitution is designed to protect against violations by the government, groups, etc.
18. **“Equal Protection of Law” –** It signifies that “all persons subject to legislation, shall be treated alike, under like circumstances and conditions both in the privileges conferred and liabilities imposed.”
19. **Power of Eminent Domain –** The power of the State to take or expropriate private property for public use upon paying the owner a just compensation to be ascertained according to law.
20. **Political Rights –** They are the rights of the citizens which give them the power to participate, directly or indirectly, in the establishment or administration of the government, the right of suffrage and information on matters of public concern.
21. **Civil Rights –** They are the rights of the citizens which the law will enforce at the instance of private individuals for the purpose of securing their enjoyment of their means of happiness.
22. **Social and Economic Rights –** They are the rights intended to ensure the well-being and economic security of the individual, among them are the right to property and just compensation.
23. **Police Power –** The power of the State to enact laws or regulations in relations in relation to persons and properties as may promote public health, public morals, safety, general welfare and convenience of the people.
24. **Power of Taxation –** It is the power of the State to impose charge or burden upon persons, property or property rights for the use and support of the government and to enable it to discharge its’ appropriate functions.
25. **Right to Suffrage –** It is the right and obligation to vote by qualified citizens in the election of certain national and local officials of the government and in the decision of public questions submitted to the people.
26. **Recall –** It is a method by which a public officer may be removed from office during his tenure or before the expiration of his term by a vote of the people after registration of a petition signed by a required percentage of the qualified voters.
27. **Plebiscite –** It is a vote of the people expressing their choice for or against a proposed law or enactment submitted to them. It is applied to an election at which any proposal, amendment to, or revision of the Constitution is submitted to the people for their ratification.
28. **Initiative –** It is the process whereby the people directly propose and enact laws. The Constitution mandates the Congress to provide as early as possible a system of initiative and referendum.
29. **Judicial Powers –** It is the power to apply the laws to contests or disputes concerning legally recognized rights or duties between the State and private persons brought before the judicial tribunals.
30. **Accountability –** It sets down in unequivocal terms the mandate that all government officials and employees, shall at all times, be answerable for their misconduct to the people.