

The Philippine Constitution

Constitution defined the body of rules and principles in accordance with which the powers of sovereignty are regularly exercised.

What is the Constitution of the Philippines?

The Constitution of the Philippines maybe defined as the written instrument by which the fundamental powers f the government is established, limited and defined and by which these powers are distributed among the several departments or branches for their safe and useful exercise for the benefit of the people.

THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES – PREAMBLE

We, the sovereign Filipino people, imploring the aid of Almighty God, in order to build a just and humane society, and establish a Government that shall embody our ideals and aspirations, promote the common good, conserve and develop our patrimony, and secure to ourselves and our posterity, the blessings of independence and democracy under the rule of law and a regime of truth, justice, freedom, love, equality, and peace, do ordain and promulgate this Constitution.

CITIZENSHIP ARTICLE IV

Section 1: The following are citizens of the Philippines:

1. Those who are citizens of the Philippines at the time of the adoption of this Constitution;
2. Those whose fathers or mothers are citizens of the Philippines;
3. Those born before January 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers, who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority; and
4. Those who are naturalized in accordance with law.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CITIZENS

Article V

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the citizen to be loyal to the Republic and to honor the Philippine flag, to defend the State and contribute to its development and welfare, to uphold the Constitution and obey the laws, and to cooperate with the duly constituted authorities in the attainment and preservation of a just and orderly society.

Section 2. The rights of the individual impose upon him the correlative duty to exercise them responsibly and with due regard for the rights of others.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of every citizen to engage in gainful work to assure himself and his family a life worthy of human dignity.

Section 4. It shall be the obligation of every citizen qualified to vote to register and cast his vote.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF FILIPINOS

1. It is the duty of every Filipino to respect, honor, and give due accord to his Filipino heritage, patrimony, values and tradition.
2. It is the duty of every Filipino to contribute to the development, welfare, and nation-building of its country.
3. It is the duty of every Filipino to engage in gainful work to assure himself and his family a life worthy of human dignity.
4. Loyalty to the federal republic and national consciousness, aspirations, and ideals shall be asked from every Filipino citizen.
5. Every Filipino citizen is asked to uphold this Constitution, obey the laws of the land, pay taxes and duties, and to cooperate with the duly constituted authorities in the attainment and preservation of a just and orderly society.
6. Every Filipino citizen must give due honour to the Philippine flag, National Anthem, Philippine President, and other national symbols and emblems.
7. It is the duty of every Filipino citizen to defend the national territory from aggressive invaders, protect the sovereignty of its people, and preserve the continuity of a just, humane society and government.
8. It is the duty of every Filipino to report to the proper authorities all plots of terrorism, plans of rebellion, subversion, or insurrection toward the duly and legally acknowledged government, and other acts that will compromise the union and sovereignty of the federal republic.
9. It is the obligation of every Filipino, to report corrupt, dishonest, or fraudulent government officials to the proper forum, courts and agencies. A Filipino shall not tempt or bribe government officials, steal from the coffers of the government, or escape or abandon his lawful responsibilities.
10. It is the responsibility of every Filipino to elect officials of government as a means of demonstrating his personal ideals and aspirations for the motherland. Omission or abstention from this responsibility may indicate a person's renunciation of his right of suffrage. No fine or inappropriate or excessive penalty shall be asked from him as reparation for his choice not to vote. People, who lost their social right of suffrage, may reclaim such right in accordance of law.

Our Basic Building Blocks

Faith in the Almighty God – A good Filipino obeys God and lives according to His teachings. One of the identified strengths of the Filipino is their faith in God. In one way or another, Filipinos have a basic concept of a Supreme Being who to them always gives a beacon of hope no matter how bleak the current situation may be. This makes them resilient, driven by great hope stemming from their faith in someone whom they believe has the power to deliver them from even the most miserable situation. This is quite evident in the Filipinos' response during the

onslaught of disasters. From disasters brought about by natural phenomenon such as earthquakes and storms to manmade ones like the tragic garbage landslide in Payatas, the Filipino always bounces back as if the disasters and tragedies did not happen. It is also this trait that brings conviction to a Filipino not to do anything bad, for the same Supreme Being who watches over them will be the same eyes who shall judge them should they engage in wrongdoing.

1. **Respect for Life** – A good Filipino recognizes the absolute value of human life and the human dignity of every person including himself. Being pro-life doesn't just mean not engaging in abortion or being in favor of it. Being pro-life includes valuing other people – how they feel, what could harm their physical, mental, moral and spiritual well-being. Among the practices that show respect to others and their dignity as a person are not smoking in public, not throwing litter which will cause accidents or put their health in peril, not saying words that hurt people and scar them for life.

Most importantly, being pro-life means valuing oneself and seeing oneself as a person of great worth and value. When one respects his/her life he/she takes good care of her hygiene, is mindful of the things that he/she says about himself/herself, is careful not to do things that will harm her moral, spiritual, physical and social well-being, nor does he/she allow other people to damage them as well.

2. **Order** – A good Filipino values orderliness. Valuing order means respecting laws, procedures. By following these sets of laws and/or procedure in the home, school and the community as a whole, he/she respects the human rights of others and invites excellence in everything he /she does. Setting things in order could range from maintaining cleanliness in the home, to coming to school on time, to falling in line, to following traffic rules and regulations.
3. **Work** – A good Filipino values diligence and excellence in everything he/she does. He earns an honest living and does not engage in crime and corruption. He goes to school on time, does his homework and participates in school activities. He does his best in everything and is not contented with the mediocre. As a worker, Filipinos are versatile, hardworking and creative. In practically every nation of the world, Filipinos are fast becoming valued business partners and treasured workers. This could be attributed to the Filipinos' inherent diligence, coupled with authentic concern, and peppered with another good Filipino trait – his sense of humor. Filipinos don't mind taking on any kind of work and are great salesmen and negotiators. Not to be taken negatively, the Filipino could make great sales pitches. He's good in selling ideas. From the ordinary man on the street selling rags, to the businessman in his Makati office trying to close a deal. The Filipinos are likewise very creative. He's the only one who could sell practically all parts of a chicken and name them creatively as well – a helmet for chicken's head; adidas for chicken feet, and betamax (after its shape) for chicken's blood to name a few. He could almost always find something to laugh about even in the harshest work conditions.

4. **Concern for the Family and Future Generations** – A good Filipino looks after the welfare of his/her family and the future generation. He/she helps in household chores, has a loving relationship with all the members of his/her family, is kind and considerate to them, and shows a good example to the younger members. As the basic unit of society, the family is the child's first glimpse of community; hence it is important that children are shown good examples in their respective homes early in life. Whatever is learned from the family has big implications in how he/she's going to treat other people in his/her community. Among the good practices that a family could adopt is open communication. A child raised in a family which has maintained open communication is most unlikely to turn to harmful influences for solutions to problem or for affirmation.
5. **Love** – A good Filipino looks after the good and welfare of his/her fellow human beings. Love should always be the driving force when we want to achieve or do something. This does not refer to romantic love alone. As a leader, family member or a member of the society, we can exercise the value of love. A heart motivated by love will always look after other people's welfare. He/she is kind and compassionate, forgives offenses and is not vengeful. His/her heart is sacrificial and is always willing to extend help to the less fortunate. A person filled with love will always see the goodness in every person. This does not mean however that he/she will allow other people to look down upon her/him or trample on his/her rights like a doormat. Instead, speaking the truth in love, she/he gently instructs the erring person on the things that he/she is doing wrong. If the wrongdoing involves violation of the law, he/she does not tolerate or cover up the wrongdoing but submits the matter to the proper authorities. He/she remains supportive until the person has corrected his/her erroneous ways.
6. **Freedom** – A good Filipino asserts his/her right especially if it means being able to do the right thing. He/she respects the freedom of others; doesn't impose his/her will on others; exercises his freedom responsibly so that he/she will do no harm to anyone; does not use coercion or intimidation to make others do what he/she wants them to do or what he/she wants them to be.
7. **Peace** – A good Filipino lives and works in harmony with his/her fellow human beings. He/she avoids violence as a way of settling disputes and looks for ways to resolve conflict in a peaceful way. He/she maintains a harmonious relationship with others, at home, at work, in the community; and helps clear out misunderstanding among friends and family members. A peace-loving Filipino stops conflict whenever and wherever he/she can. This includes not passing gossip and unkind words around for the sake of socialization. He/she understands that words and news blown out of proportion destroys friendships and harmonious relationships and could ruin a person for life. When you are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution, even if the news is true – it is categorized as gossip. One's upbringing or the shortcomings of the community one lives in shouldn't be the gauging mechanism why one would observe peace. A peaceful person does not rely on the absence of chaos to exercise peace. In the movie Magnifico, a supposedly simpleminded ordinary boy served as an agent of peace.

In the seemingly complicated world of adults looking after their own interests or busy solving conflicts or fighting their own battles, Magnifico showed love, compassion and selflessness. In the end, his example became a catalyst of peace and love in his family and the community he lives in. He showed them that in a world where everyone is practically shouting, all it takes is a gentle, selfless voice to get everyone to listen.

8. **Truth** – A good Filipino stands up for the truth and avoids intrigue and mudslinging and values integrity in his/her life, family, work and country. He/she observes proper pricing of goods and does not patronize nor is he/she a cohort in fixing or bribing in business transactions. He/she admits his/her mistakes and does something to correct his/her fault.
9. **Justice** – A good Filipino gives everyone their due even if it is difficult. He does not oppress or take advantage of anyone. He/she is fair in all his/her dealings especially with the poor and powerless, not getting more than what is rightfully his/hers.
10. **Unity** – A good Filipino works with and cooperates with others. Unity doesn't mean a group of people should act the same nor should they sport the same hairstyle and wear the same clothing. Just imagine how chaotic it would be if everyone wants and does the same thing. Unity means synergizing the different talents and skills for the success of an endeavor. A good team player does not promote intrigue, dissension and mistrust. He/she helps others in the family, school, and community grow and is genuinely happy for the achievements of the members of his team even if that means the spotlight is not on him/her.
11. **Equality** – A good Filipino treats others as brothers and sisters being children of one God and one nation. He/she does not give preferential treatment to the rich and the powerful; treats everyone with respect regardless of status or position; and does not take advantage of anyone because they are poor, ignorant or powerless.
12. **Respect for the Law and Government** – A good Filipino obeys the laws of the land and supports government programs. From simply no vandalism, to following traffic rules; to reporting lawbreakers, to promoting stability of the nation, a good Filipino submits to the laws of his nation and will not engage in anything that will threaten his/her Country.
13. **Patriotism** – A good Filipino places high regard for his/her country. He considers what is good for the Country in his/her words and actions. This includes patronage of native products and promotion of his/her country. He/she is mindful not to do that would give his/her country a bad image. He/she takes extra care not to say anything that would malign the reputation of his/her country. Statements like “ganito talaga sa Pilipinas, hindi na magbabago” or “huwag kayong pupunta sa Pilipinas kung ayaw nyong manakawan” are sweeping derogatory statements that malign our country and us Filipinos as well. Being patriotic includes choosing wisely whom to vote during elections. A good Filipino does not sell his/her rights or dignity as a person but instead entrusts the

Country's welfare to the hands of someone whom he/she knows has the capacity to really govern well. Knowing one's national emblems like the Philippine National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Filipino Flag is also an act of patriotism. Below are the lyrics of the Philippine National Anthem and the words of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Filipino Flag.

Lupang Hinirang

Bayang magiliw, perlas ng silanganan
Alab ng puso, sa dibdib mo'y buhay
Lupang hinirang, duyan ka ng magiting
 Sa manlulupig,
 di ka pasisiil Sa dagat at bundok,
 sa simoy at sa Inggit mong bughaw
 May dilag ang tula at awit sa
 paglayang minamahal
 Ang kislap ng watawat mo'y
 tagumpay na nagniningning
 Ang bituin at araw nya,
 kalian pa ma'y di magdidilim
 Lupa ng araw ng luwalhati't pagsinta
 Buhay ay langit sa piling mo
 Aming ligaya, na pag may mang-aapi
 Ang matatay ng dahil sa yo.

Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas

Ako ay Pilipino,
buong katapatang nanunumpa sa watawat ng Pilipinas
 At sa bansang kanyang sinasagisag
 Na may dangal, katarungan at kalayaan
 Na pinakikilos ng sambayanang maka-Diyos,
 makakalikasan at maka-bansa.

14. **Promotion of the Common Good** – A good Filipino puts the welfare of the greater number of people over his/her own. A good Filipino is not greedy and selfish; instead, he/she considers the welfare of others in everything he/she does. Good examples of this are businessmen who don't mind foregoing the potential of earning a sizable income from a development plan if it means endangering nature and people's health. He/she helps the less fortunate and goes out of his/her way to engage in activities that will benefit his/her fellow human beings especially in the area of poverty alleviation.
15. **Concern for the Environment** – A good Filipino conserves natural resources such as water, land and air. He/she gets involved in efforts contributory to the welfare of the environment such as planting trees and implementing proper waste segregation. He/she keeps his/her surroundings clean, and does not throw garbage in canals and waterways.