

Constitutional Convention

June 1971



In June 1971, 320 delegates convened to begin reviewing and revising the 1935 Constitution. The Constitutional Convention was controversial due to alleged bribery efforts to extend Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s term limits. By November 1972, two months after Marcos declared Martial Law, the convention approved a draft that would give Marcos more power. Consequently, Marcos organized Citizen Assemblies where citizens would be asked if they approved of the new constitution. Despite opposition, the 1973 Constitution went into effect and Marcos succeeded in legitimizing his unbounded power.

Isa sa mga kinasangkapan ni Marcos Sr. upang magkamkam ng kapangyarihan ay ang pagpasa ng Konstitusyon ng 1973. Sinimulan ang proseso sa pagbabago ng konstitusyon nang ipatawag ang isang Constitutional Convention na binubuo ng tatlong daan at dalawampung (320) delegado noong Hunyo 1971 upang suriin at rebisahin ang Konstitusyon ng 1935. Naging kontrobersyal ang hakbang na ito dahil sa pinaniniwalaang mga panunuhol kaugnay sa pagpasa ng probisyon na pahabain ang termino ni Marcos Sr. Noong Nobyembre 1972, dalawang buwan matapos ang deklarasyon ng Batas Militar, inaprubahan ng Convention ang panukala na magbibigay kay Marcos Sr. ng karagdagang kapangyarihan. Dagdag dito, pinanguhan ni Marcos Sr. ang pagtatatag ng Citizen Assemblies na siyang nagpadaloy sa pag-apruba sa bagong konstitusyon. Sa kabila ng oposisyon, naging matagumpay si Marcos Sr. sa pagpasa ng Konstitusyon ng 1973 at sa pagkimkim ng labis na kapangyarihan.

References:

Ateneo Martial Law Museum. (n.d.) The Makings of a Constitutional Dictator. <https://martiallawmuseum.ph/magalar/the-makings-of-a-constitutional-dictator/>

Ex-President Diosdado Macapagal presiding over the 1971 Constitutional Convention. Retrieved from the Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines via <https://x.com/govph/status/694456511494541312>

09.21

We will never forget.



Acknowledgements

UP Diliman Office of the Chancellor

Ateneo Martial Law Museum and Library
<https://martiallawmuseum.ph/>

Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial
Commission (HRVVMC)
<https://hrvvmemcom.gov.ph/>

Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation
<https://bantayogngmgabayani.org/>

Project Team

MONICA FIDES AMADA W. SANTOS
Project Head

MARK LOUIE L. LUGUE
Curator

JHUNIE PEARL SANCHEZ
Project Coordinator

RHODALYN WANI-OBIAS
LARAH VINDA DEL MUNDO
AARON VIERNES
LORENZO JOSE MARTINEZ
RISVEN ALLEN DELA PAZ
Researchers - UP Department of History

CYPRIAN JEREMIAH DAMOT
Graphic Designer

LUISITO MAINOT
RENCY PULIDO
JOHN EMERSON ROMANILLOS
Exhibition Staff

#UPDayOfRemembrance2024
#NeverAgain
#NeverForget