

**February 8, 1960**  
**25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION**

**25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Twenty-five years ago on February 8, 1935, the Constitutional Convention of the Philippines adopted the greatest Filipino-made document in the political history of the Philippines. A document that sets forth the organization and functions of the government, the relations of the people of the government and their rights and liberties within the state - in short, the fundamental law of the land - the constitution of the Philippines.

The noble sentiments and high principles as well as the ideals of liberty and democracy of the Filipino people are embodied in this great document.

As authorized by the Tydings-McDuffie Law an independence act of March 24, 1934 providing for Philippine independence after a transition period of ten years, the Philippine Legislature called a constitutional convention to draft a constitution of the Philippines. The story of the Constitution thus began on July 30, 1934 when 202 of the best Filipino intellectuals were elected delegates to the convention. The oldest delegate was past 74 years of age and the youngest delegate was under 25 years.

After the election of officers, the Convention was divided into seven committees on the organization and functions of the convention and forty committees on the constitution. The largest and most powerful was the Sponsorship Committee with 87 members. All constitutional proposals were submitted to it for consideration and preparation of the draft constitution. The proposals were numerous but the progress of the work was so slow that the Sponsorship Committee decided to create a Sub-Committee of Seven. The "Seven Wise Men" of this committee as they were called were Fileman Sotto (chairman), Manuel A. Roxas, Roberto Romualdez, Manuel C. Briones, Conrado Benitez, Miguel Cuaderno and Vicente Singson Encarnacion.

It took six month to frame the Constitution from the different sources from which it was derived - the Malolos Constitution, the Jones Law and other previous organic laws, the European constitutions, including those of the Spanish Republic and the German Republic, the Mexican Constitution and some South American constitutions, the unwritten English Constitution and the Constitution of the United States.

On February 8, 1935, the Constitution was approved by the Convention with only one dissenting vote against 177. Twenty members were absent. Two hundred delegates signed two drafts of he Constitution, one in Spanish and the other in English, on February 19, 1935, although some delegates had signed the document beginning February 9. Two delegates did not sign and one delegate, a paralytic, signed with his own blood.

The President of the United States approved the Constitution on March 23, 1935 and in a plebiscite where the Filipino woman voted for the first time, on May 14, 1935, it was ratified by the electorate.



The Constitution originally consisted of a Preamble, se-venteen Articles and an Ordinance Appended to it. After it had been amended twice, first on October 24, 1939 and the se-cond on June 18, 1940; the Constitution today contains eighteen articles.

This 25th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Philippines is commemorated by the Bureau of Posts with two new stamps, the first of its kind in the form of a triangle. The central motif is the book of the Constitution of the Philippines. Reclining against the lower base of the book is a cluster of 25 leaves with its tip rising upward toward the right portion of the stamps. The inscription "25th Anniversary 1935-1960", appears on the left side of the stamps and "6c Postage or 30c Postage, Philippines" on the right side. The 6c denomination stamp is in sepia and gold while the 30c denomination is in blue and silver. Philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., of the Bureau of Posts, designed the stamps.