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TANGGAPAN NG KALIHIM  
Office of the Secretary

February 28, 1973

DEPARTMENT ORDER  
No. 7, s. 1973

GUIDELINES FOR BARANGAYS' (CITIZENS  
ASSEMBLIES') PARTICIPATION ON LOCAL ISSUES

To: All Bureau Directors  
and Heads of Offices:

1. Issued as an enclosure to this Department Order is Presidential Decree No. 134 dated February 21, 1973, entitled "Setting the Guidelines for Barangays' (Citizens Assemblies') Participation on Local Issues." It is noted that the barangays (citizens assemblies) have proven themselves effective in providing the government basis for making decisions on issues vitally affecting our people down to the grassroots level.
2. Attention is invited to the provisions of Section 1 thereof requiring the participation of the Department of Education and Culture in the conduct of referendums on local issues upon petition by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the Barangay (Citizens Assembly) of the local unit affected. It is desired that all schools cooperate with, and extend their fullest assistance to, the local officials from the Provincial Governor down to the Barrio Captain or Ward Leader in the conduct of these referendums.
3. It is further desired that school personnel assist in updating the memberships in barangays (citizens assemblies), to include the fifteen-year olds and those who do not know how to read and write with residence of at least







six months pursuant to the provisions of Memorandum-Circular No. 73-2 dated February 2, 1973, of the Department of Local Government and Community Development, copies of which were previously sent to the field.

4. The cooperation of all school officials and the teaching staff is hereby enjoined.

(Sgd.) JUAN L. MANUEL  
Acting Secretary

mbr/

Incl.:  
As stated









MALACANANG  
Manila

PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 134

SETTING THE GUIDELINES FOR BARANGAYS' (CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES)  
PARTICIPATION ON LOCAL ISSUES.

WHEREAS, the Office of the President and the Department of Local Government and Community Development have been receiving requests from various Barangays to hold referendums in their local units on local issues affecting their welfare;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 86 dated December 31, 1972, it is the policy of this Government to broaden the base of citizen participation in the democratic process and to afford ample opportunities for the citizenry to express their views; and

WHEREAS, citizen participation will make the local officials more responsive to the needs and views of our people in running the affairs of the local units;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, do hereby decree as part of the law of the land the following:

1. The Department of Local Government and Community Development is hereby directed to authorize and supervise the calling of the referendums in all local units and for this purpose request the participation of the Department of Education and Culture and other offices in the localities concerned in conducting the Barangays (Citizens' Assemblies);

2. A request to the Department of Local Government and Community Development to conduct a referendum on local issues affecting the local unit concerned may be initiated by a petition to conduct a referendum by at least one-fifth (1/5) of the members of the Barangay (Citizens' Assembly) of the local unit affected;

3. Upon receipt of this petition, the Department shall immediately prepare the questionnaire in accordance with the local issues asked for in the petition and shall imme-







diately notify the local unit concerned of the date and time when the referendum shall take place, giving at least ten (10) days from notice to the date of the referendum; and

4. When the local issue asked for in the petition involves the creation, division, merger, abolition or alteration of existing boundaries of local units, the Department of Local Government and Community Development, upon receipt of such petition, shall immediately forward the same to the President and, on the basis of merit, recommend the issuance of a presidential decree on the matter asked for, the effectivity of which is conditioned on the approval by the Barangay (Citizens' Assembly) in the referendum called for that purpose.

5. This Decree shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 21st day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-three.

(SGD.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS  
President  
Republic of the Philippines

By the President:

(SGD.) ALEJANDRO MELCHOR  
Executive Secretary





