

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON AT KULTURA
Department of Education and Culture
Maynila
Manila

TANGGAPAN NG KALIHIM
Office of the Secretary

July 16, 1973

DEPARTMENT ORDER
No. 23, s. 1973

ROLE OF TEACHERS AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS
IN THE JULY 27 REFERENDUM

To: The Director of Elementary Education,
The Director of Secondary Education,
The Director of Higher Education:

1. In connection with the national referendum on July 27, teachers and school officials have primarily a three-fold role:

- a. To serve in the referendum committee of the barangay, in the case of those deputized by the local election registrars;
- b. To undertake an all-out campaign for a massive turnout on referendum day; and
- c. To take the lead in enlightened discussion of the referendum question.

2. Not all teachers and school officials may be asked to serve on the referendum committees but all are expected to contribute essentially to bring about the widest possible participation of qualified, registered voters in the July 27 Referendum. Their effort, in this regard may take the form of instructions to pupils and students to ask their parents to participate in the referendum; letters to parents on the same subject; house to house visitation, as part of their community service activity, to remind parents and other members of the family of their obligation to vote, and assistance to voters in locating their respective voting places.

3. The significance of this referendum should be discussed in classes, particularly in the social sciences, and in community assemblies, or parent-teacher association meetings. The patriotic obligation of every citizen to participate in the matter of a national decision on a basic and vital issue should be stressed.

4. While the provision of Presidential Decree No. 229 on the penalty imposed on "a registered voter who does not cast his vote without justifiable excuse" may be cited for information purposes, the appeal for participation in the referendum should be directed to the citizen's sense of duty.

5. Teachers and school officials may also take the lead in enlightened discussions of the referendum question and all that it implies. As pointed out by Chairman of the Commission on Elections Leonardo B. Perez, the question, "if explained in all its nuances and meanings, embraces and includes the implementation of reforms in the specified areas of the national effort." It should be stressed that the results of the referendum will be an overall rating of the performance not of President Marcos alone, but of all the various departments, bureaus and offices and agencies, national or local, all their officials and employees which have participated in the implementation of the reforms in peace and order, agrarian reform, economic development, education, government reorganization, social welfare, and including the First Lady's Green Revolution.

6. As further pointed out by the Comelec Chairman, it is expected that there would be barangay members who might be disappointed in the management or performance of some instrumentalities and offices; while they might be satisfied with the performance of other agencies. It is in cases like this where the voter should be asked "to weigh things dispassionately, clear their thoughts of trivial happenings not relevant to the welfare of the country and decide to vote yes or no on the basis of an honest and frank assessment of the performance of the government in its totality."

7. Teachers and school officials are also hereby informed that, in the opinion of the Commission on Elections, the participation of government officials in discussions of the referendum question does not constitute a partisan political activity and is therefore not a violation of any law.

(SGD.) JUAN L. MANUEL
Secretary of Education and Culture

