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**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FOR RESPONSIBLE VOTING
(PPCRV)**

PRIMER

ON THE

**VOTER'S REGISTRATION
ACT OF 1996**

(R.A. 8189 - GENERAL & CONTINUING REGISTRATION)

**E. CLIFTON WHITE RESOURCE CENTER ^{2/00}
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS**

**PPCRV NATIONAL VOTER'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE (VOT-ED)
AND
NATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (POL-FAIR)
MAY, 1997**

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PRIMER ON THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996

What is Republic Act 8189 ?

- Republic Act 8189 better known as the Voter's Registration Act of 1996 is an act providing for a general registration of voters adopting a system of continuing registration.

For what purpose was Republic Act (R.A.) 8189 adopted ?

- Republic Act (R.A.) 8189 was adopted to establish a clean, complete, permanent and updated list of voters.

What does General Registration mean ?

- Upon the cancellation of all previous list of voters, all eligible and qualified voters must once again file a sworn application for registration before the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) of the city or municipality wherein he resides, subject to the approval by the Election Registration Board.

What is meant by the Continuing Registration of Voters ?

- After the General Registration of voters, filing of application of registration of voters shall now be conducted duly in the Office of the Election Officer during regular office hours. No Registration, however, shall be conducted during the period starting 120 days before a regular election and 90 days before a special election.

When is this General Registration scheduled to take place ?

- Immediately after the 1997 Barangay Elections, the existing certified list of voters shall cease to be effective and operative, thereto a subsequent registration of voters for the 1998 elections, plebiscites, referenda, initiatives and recalls, shall be scheduled on June 14, 15, 21 and 22 (1997) and, June 28 & 29 upon the decision of the COMELEC.
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Who may Register ?

- a) All citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law,
- b) at least 18 years of age, and
- c) who have resided in the Philippines for at least 1 year and in the place wherein he proposes to vote for at least 6 months immediately preceding the election.

What disqualifies a Filipino voter from Registering ?

- a) Any person who has been sentenced final judgement to suffer imprisonment of not less than 1 year, such disability not having been removed by plenary pardon or amnesty: Provided, however, that any person disqualified to vote under this paragraph shall automatically reacquire the right to vote upon the expiration of 5 years after service of sentence;
- b) Any person who has been adjudged by final judgement by a competent court or tribunal of having committed any crime involving disloyalty to the duly constituted government such as rebellion, sedition, violation of the firearms laws or any crime against national security, unless restored to his full civil and political rights in accordance with law: Provided, that he shall automatically reacquire the right to vote upon the expiration of 5 years after service of sentence; and
- c) Insane or incompetent persons declared as such by competent authority unless subsequently declared by proper authority that such person is no longer insane or incompetent.

What are the steps in the General Registration of Voters ?

- a) A qualified voter goes to the precinct of the city or municipality wherein he resides to be able to vote in any election
- b) He personally accomplishes an application form for registration as prescribed by the COMELEC before the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI).
- c) The BEI then sees to it that the applicant accomplishes all the data therein required.
- d) Unless challenged to the right to register any applicant must always be prepared to produce any identification or evidence of one's identity and present residence status.

proof of notice of hearing to the challenger and the applicant. Further oppositions to contest a registrant's application for inclusion in the voter's list must, in all cases, be filed not later than the 2nd Monday of the month in which the same is scheduled to be heard or processed by the Election Registration Board.

In a voter's application of Registration, does this mean that he automatically enters in the permanent list of voters ?

- No. All applications for registration must still be submitted by the Election Officer to the Election Registration Board, together with the evidence received in connection therewith. The Board shall, by majority vote, approve or disapprove the applications. Even so, when the Board approves one's application for registration, the applicant must in good commitment, verify one's name in the computerized list of voters to ensure that his/her name is included. The publication of Action on Application for Registration shall be within 5 days from its approval or disapproval. It shall be posted in the Bulletin Board of the Election Officer within a particular city or municipality.

When is a Registered Voter's status subject to Deactivation ?

- The board shall deactivate the registration and remove the registration records of the following persons from the corresponding precinct book of voters and place the same, properly marked and dated in indelible ink, in the inactive file after entering the cause or causes of deactivation:
 - a) Any person who has been sentenced by final judgment to suffer imprisonment for not less than one (1) year, such disability not having been removed by plenary pardon or amnesty: *Provided, however,* That any person disqualified to vote under this paragraph shall automatically reacquire the right to vote upon expiration of five (5) years after service of sentence as certified by the clerks of courts of the Municipal/Municipal Circuit/Metropolitan/Regional Trial Courts and the Sandiganbayan;
 - b) Any person who has been adjudged by final judgment by a competent court of tribunal of having caused/committed any crime involving disloyalty to the duly constituted government such as rebellion, sedition, violation of the anti-subversion and firearms laws, or any crime against national security, unless restored to his full civil and political rights in accordance with law: *Provided,* That he shall regain his right to vote automatically upon expiration of five (5) years after service of sentence;

- c) Any person declared by competent authority to be insane or incompetent unless such disqualification has been subsequently removed by a declaration of a proper authority that such person is no longer insane or incompetent;
- d) Any person who did not vote in the two (2) successive preceding regular elections as shown by their voting records. For this purpose, regular elections do not include the *Sangguniang Kabataan* (SK) elections;
- e) Any person whose registration has been ordered excluded by the court; and
- f) Any person who has lost his Filipino citizenship.

The Election Officer shall post in the bulletin board of his office a certified list of those persons whose registration were deactivated and the reasons therefore, and furnish copies thereof to the local heads of political parties, the national central file, and the voter concerned.

How can a Registration be reactivated ?

- Any voter whose registration has been deactivated pursuant to the preceding section may file with the Election Officer a sworn application stating that the grounds for deactivation no longer exists. This may be done at any time but not later than 120 days before a regular election and 90 days before a special election. Upon the approval of the Election Registration Board, the Election Officer retrieves the registration record from the inactive files and submits it for proper notification to concerned parties.

When is a Registration cancelled ?

- The board shall cancel the registration records of those who have died as certified by the Local Civil Registrar. The Election Officer shall post in the Bulletin Board of his office a list of those persons who died and whose registrations were cancelled, and furnish copies thereof to the local heads of political parties, the national central file and the provincial file.

What should be done in the event of transfer/change of Address of a Registered Voter ?

- a) In the same City or Municipality - Any voter who has changed his address in the same city or municipality shall immediately notify the Election Officer writing, thus obtaining the appropriate action needed for the transfer.

As a PPCRV member what are our mandates for the General and Continuing Registration of Voters ?

- As a PPCRV member we are mandated to:
 - a) Conduct Voter's Education Campaign on the General and Continuing Registration of Voters.
 - b) Serve as watchers (as COMELEC Citizen's arm) in the registration of voters.
 - c) Preserve the integrity of the permanent list of voters through the verification of each registered voter in every precinct.
 - d) And, if necessary file exclusion proceedings of voters who are either disqualified from registering as voters or are illegally registered.

TERMS TO REMEMBER

- **Registration Record** - refers to an application for registration duly approved by the Election Registration Board.
- **Book of Voters** - refers to the compilation of all registration records in a precinct.
- **List of Voters** - refers to an enumeration of names of registered voters in a precinct duly certified by the Election Registration Board for use in the election.
- **Election Registration Board** - refers to the body constituted herein to act on all applications for registration.
- **Precinct** - refers to the basic unit of territory established by the Commission for the purpose of voting.
- **Precinct Maps** - refer to a sketch or drawing of a geographical area stated in terms of streets or street blocks or sitios the residents of which would belong to a particular precinct.
- **Polling place** - refers to the place where the Board of Election Inspectors conducts its proceedings and where the voters cast their votes.

- **Voting center** - refers to the building or place where the polling place is located.
- **Election Officer** - refers to the highest official or authorized representative of the Commission in a city or municipality.
- **Board of Election Inspectors** - refers to the body which conducts the election in the polling place of the precinct usually composed of three (3) public school teachers appointed by the Commission.

For further inquiries, please call the
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*Kung tunay kang PICIPINO
Magpa-rahistro para MAKABOTO!*

**"PPCRV, Pang Eleksyon Na, Pang Habang Panahon Pa."
"Misyong Taglay, BANTAY BARANGAY!"**