

# Writer's Notes

## Boycotting the Referendum: A Political Liberty?

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Come October 18, another political assessment will be made to weigh down the historical changes and innovations that the country has felt the past four years since Martial Law was proclaimed. This political assessment, or referendum, hopes to respond to the mitigating and fazing challenges national and international affairs have wrought on Philippine government, its economics, politics, cultural upgrowth, and military totality.

President Marcos, with his patent grasp on political welfare, has greatly ferreted out revolutionary upheavals which he describes as the best, perhaps only, solutions lucrative to the upliftment of Filipino identity. Why Filipinos have played but a little part in international affairs before pre-Martial era, was the latent diplomatic relations it had, restricting, as much as possible, to countries idolizing democratic ideology only. For communist and socialist countries, the Philippines did not conceive it grave to have militant and diplomatic contact inasmuch as sedition and subversion were formally staged by leftists trained from these states.

While this Referendum is coming over to outline the problems most important for government step forward, many groups, or people, are crusading towards boycotting the "mini-election"

which they believe, though erratically, as political liberty.

Political liberty, literally, is the freedom given to every citizen to participate in government affairs aimed at injecting positive solutions to political dissensions. When negative schemes are borne for mobility, these become a "political threat."

Political liberty has never been exercised in the Philippines not until the Martial Law epoch. The state though, in nomenclature, rules under the shade of military law, nothing military has been forcibly pushed into people's political freedom, though some decrees promulgated by the President were of military value and aspirations.

The enigmatic phase of Filipino culture which has greatly scrambled the flow of history, has never been given so much attention that, during the yesteryears, it merely stood as a bleak identity. So, in an answer to this need, Philippine-styled Martial Law was proclaimed which has never become militant. Though it has inflicted panic at the first time it hit the nation, constitutional reforms have still become the factors that regulated the inflow and outflow of governmental strategems.

It would rather be sublime to uphold peace at this time of history than perspiring again in

## Banana: A source of quality wine

Quality Philippine wines, which come mostly from the country's popular fruits — pineapple, bignay, duhat, cashew, buko, etc. have been tested and approved by government scientists and accepted by the wine-drinkers with much gusto.

The laboratory services division of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) came up with another contribution to the wine cellars of the country — banana wine — from good quality cavendish banana.

Banana wine has a clear, sparkling, dark amber color to golden yellow.

The local wine connoisseurs found that the new product is exceptionally good and compares well with the best known local and foreign fruit wines.

Here's how banana wine is made: Wash the ripe bananas. Peel and cut them into pieces. Add one and a half part of water to one part of the sliced bananas.

Then boil the mixture for ten or fifteen minutes. Strain the banana extract.

Add sugar to obtain the twenty-four degree (24°) boiling. Heat the extract to dissolve the sugar and to kill all the bacteria. Allow the extract to cool.

After cooking, transfer the extract to a dimijohn wherein fermentation takes place in about three to four weeks after which the liquid will be decanted and the dead yeast separated.

Store the liquid and age it for at least two years. After two years, there will be a perfect settling of the solids so that wine will be very clear and fining is necessary.

suppressing lawless elements which shall re-threat if our present form of government shall have to be eradicated. At least, even unintentionally, people do not want to be annihilated for bad!

### FOOTNOTES:

Sweet are the hours when democracy rules; The ideologues harping for Plato's mind; Those paeans — the plebians are, yes, glad; For the patricians are gone out of grind.

## Know your SSS

Q: What happens to a member's contributions if he is no longer employed, transfers to a government office, or goes abroad?

A: The member who finds himself in any of the foregoing situations continues to be a member of the SSS, as the agency's policy is "Once a member, always a member". His/her contributions will entitle him/her to all the benefits and loan privileges, subject to the existing rules and provisions of the SSS Law as amended.

Q: Why should a duly reported employee-member have only one SSS identification number irrespective of the number of employers he may have?

A: 1. The possession of only one SSS number facilitates the proper recording of contributions remitted to the System under one account.

2. It also facilitates the processing of benefit claims and loan applications filed with the System.

Q: Why does the SSS not pay dividends to its members like the GSIS does?

A: The SSS is similar to the GSIS in the operation of their social security systems: the SSS with its Sickness, Disability, Death and Retirement Fund and the GSIS with its Retirement Insurance Fund. The earnings from these Funds are not profits because they are by plan and in fact used to pay a significant portion of benefits. Thus the SSS does not give dividends. Neither does GSIS from this phase of its operations as borne

out by its financial statements. The SSS is different from the GSIS in that the GSIS operates, while the SSS does not, an individual equity insurance under two separate and distinct funds: its Life Insurance Fund which operates like private life insurance, and its Property Insurance Fund which operates like private non-life insurance. For this purpose, the GSIS issues an insurance policy contract on the basis of individual equity for every insured person or property. When the business is good, the GSIS declares dividends from the profits of these operations. A social security system that is operating on the basis of social adequacy as against individual equity cannot grant dividends. Depending on its financial position, members receive increases in benefits as indeed received by SSS members in at least eight different times through amendments to the SSS Law. Of interest to SSS members is how their contributions compare with those of GSIS members. The SSS member pays about 3% of his salaries as compared with 8 1/2% for the GSIS member. Including employer contributions, the SSS member pays a total of 7% as compared with 18% for the GSIS member.

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