

REGULATIONS FOR PLAYING OR SINGING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ANTHEM

It has come to our attention that the Philippine National Anthem has been and is being commonly played or sung on frivolous occasions or in inappropriate places as in social gatherings purely for recreation or amusement purposes. This robs our anthem of its hallowed national attributes and cheapens its significance.

The Philippine National Anthem is a solemn expression of the history, customs, traditions and institutions of our country. It symbolizes the lofty aspirations, struggles and heroic sacrifices of our forebears to the end that those who come after them may enjoy the blessings of freedom, peace and prosperity. We should therefore hold it in veneration for what it stands. In view of this and in order to inculcate profound respect for the anthem among the citizens, it is urged that the Philippine National Anthem should be played or sung only in public places on occasions of an official or semi-official character or during the hoisting or lowering of the official flag of the Philippines or in performances or celebrations of an official character held in public or private schools or on similar occasions. For this reason the playing or singing of the same in places or occasions that are unsuitable or inappropriate, where it does not likely merit the consideration and veneration that it deserves, such as in carnivals, balls, moro-moro plays, coronation of beauty queens, or any social gathering or any meeting for amusement, recreation or entertainment and the like should be discouraged.

Whenever the President of the Philippines, the Vice-President, the Senate President or the Speaker of the House of Representatives should make an official visit and a public manifestation is necessary to welcome them, it shall be optional on this occasion to sing or play the national anthem.

Tradition sanctions the playing of the Philippine National Anthem in catholic

churches or churches of any religious denomination or sect in connection with some solemn ceremonies. This practice should not be disturbed.

It is urged that this circular be transmitted to all municipalities and municipal districts enjoining them to give it the widest publicity possible in order to remind all concerned how irreverent and disrespectful it is to play or sing the Philippine National Anthem on frivolous occasions which belittle its significance or which do not inspire in the citizens the highest veneration for our Anthem. *PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR (Unnumbered), dated Feb. 15, 1949, of Secretary of the Interior.*

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