

MEMORANDUM for
EVERY CITIZEN

[*Excerpts from Speeches and Messages
of His Excellency*

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
President of the Philippines.]

"As individuals and as a people, we have our own problems. But our attention should not be limited to these problems; it should also seek to discover the relation of these problems to those of other individuals and other peoples. Our personal and community welfare is intimately bound with the welfare of others, not only within but outside our homes and our national frontiers."—*At the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the Far Eastern University, Nov. 5, 1948.*

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"Our natural resources must be completely and efficiently utilized if we are to survive as a nation. * * * Home production of our primary and vital needs must at once be given impetus."—*At the inauguration of the Central Bank, January 3, 1949.*

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"It is the duty of every one to support whoever is at the head of the government."—*At the plaza of the City of Naga on January 9, 1949.*

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"I am sure that the publication of the *Local Government Review* will meet the great need for reference and information often felt by those who administer provincial, city and municipal governments as well as by the residents of these communities.

"It can distill practical knowledge and wisdom out of the experiences of our local administrators and contribute substantially to good government and good citizenship. I commend the initiative of the publishers and editors of this publication and wish them every success."—*Message published at page three of our first issue, January, 1949.*

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**ANCIENT HONESTY AND SUPERMACY
OF THE LAW**

Queen SIMA

(*From Chinese dynastic annals translated in Groeneveldt's Notes on the Malay Archipelago with the date given as A.D. 674 and the place as Kalang, or Dj-Apo, corresponding to the Cotabato region of southern Mindanao.*)

Our country has had an enviable reputation for honesty. It has been our custom not to disturb even things dropped in the road, leaving these for their owner's return, that he whose they rightfully are may recover them however long his delay.

A ruler from faraway, an Arab, doubted our fame and thought to test it by sending a bag of gold to be left in the road as a trap.

For three years it remained in the road. For three years those of our people who saw it passed around it. It was left for you, the expectant future ruler, to be careless.

You thought that your rank privileged you to not turn out, so you stepped over the purse. Yet you should have set the example. You ought to have been the most careful of all.

Because your rank is greater your fault is graver. Death was the penalty at first in my mind but my ministers have dissuaded me. Then, because your fault was in your feet, I would have had them cut off, but even that my ministers advise is too severe a penalty.

I sentence you to have the toes of both feet cut off, to remind you to set a better example, as a warning to others, and to prove that in our land no one is so high in rank as to be above the law.

* From Austin Craig's *Gems of Philippine Oratory* (1924) p. 9.