

# MALACAÑAN PALACE

*A quick guide*



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

---

PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM & LIBRARY



# I. MALACAÑAN PALACE

## Introduction

Malacañan Palace – the official residence of the President of the Philippines, situated in the old Manila district of San Miguel. Over the 175-odd years that government has owned the place, the building has been remodeled, expanded, demolished, and rebuilt, and the adjoining land was also bought. Whatever remained of the original structure must have disappeared in the 1978-79 rebuilding by then First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

The name is derived from the Tagalog word “Mamalakaya-han,” which meant the place of fishermen in Tagalog. It was later on Hispanicized and simplified to “Malacañan.”

## History

The first recorded owner of the property was Luis Rocha, a Spaniard in the Galleon trade. Don Luis was married to Gregoria Tuason, daughter of the Chinese Son Tua who founded the prominent Tuason family. His modern day descendants report that he was evidently a large and hot tempered man who loved his afternoon siesta. One of the duties of his Indian manservant was to shush off noisy boatmen plying the Pasig, warning them “Malaki yan” – another version of the genesis of the Malacañang name. One of Don Luis’ many children was Antonio Rocha, who married an Ycaza, hence a nearby street of the name. Antonio’s son was painter Lorenzo Rocha, a student of the Academia de Dibujo y Pintura who was sent to Madrid in 1858 as the first Philippine art scholar.

The Rocha property was built of stone, described as being a relatively modest country house (although modern day Rochas say it was not small and in fact had a ballroom) with a bath house on the river and gardens, all enclosed by a stone fence. The latter was probably a nipa-roofed and bamboo-enclosed structure built on the water, where away from the gaze of passing boats, the Rochas and their

guests could enjoy the rushing water while clinging to a rope – a favorite pastime of those simpler days. It was one among many weekend homes of the elite, located in San Miguel, Paco, and Sta. Ana along the Pasig and its tributaries, easily accessible from Intramuros and Binondo by boat, by carriage, or on horseback. The still standing “Carriedo House” within the Sta. Mesa campus of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines may have been one of these weekend homes.

Luis Rocha sold the property in 1802 to Colonel Jose Miguel Fomento of the Spanish Army. Fomento’s testamentary executors in turn sold it to the government upon his death in 1825, paid from proceeds of a Chinese head tax.

The Spanish Governors General had lived grandly in Intramuros, since the 17th century in the Palacio del Gobernador on Plaza Mayor. The “Poseion de Malacañang,” as it was called, was a country home and temporary residence of outgoing Governors General awaiting the next ship to Spain.

The earthquake of June 3, 1863 felled the Palacio at Intramuros. The Governor General had to move to Malacañang. Finding the place too small, a wooden two-story building

was added at the back of the original structure; smaller buildings for aides, guards, and porters were added, as well as stables, carriage sheds, and a boat landing for river-borne visitors.

The newly closed Colegio de Sta. Potenciana was remodeled into the Palacio Provisional de Sta. Potenciana, located at the site where now stands the Philippine National Red Cross and maybe the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Buildings on General Luna Street. With Sta. Potenciana ready, the Governor General moved back to Intramuros in 1865. Meanwhile, repairs continued at Malacañang. Work must have been just completed when another earthquake struck, badly damaging both Sta. Potenciana and Malacañang. The Governor General moved to an office building on Calle Cabildo in Intramuros.

Malacañang was once again repaired and improved. Its posts were strengthened, roof tiles replaced with GI sheets, balconies repaired, and both exterior and interior beautified. As luck would have it, no sooner were these completed when fresh calamities struck: a typhoon in October 1872, an earthquake in December 1872, a fire in February 1873, another fire in 1873 after repairs were completed, and

a bad storm in May 1873. After that, rebuilding resumed in earnest, with new wings, azoteas, rooms, and galleries, over the next four years (1875-79).

By the time the Americans took over in 1898, Malacañang was a rambling Spanish colonial period building, built of wood, with sliding capiz windows, patios, and azoteas.

The American Governors General abandoned the plan to reconstruct the old Palacio at Intramuros. Instead, they continued to improve and enlarge Malacañang, buying up more land, reclaiming more of the Pasig River, raising the ground level (to keep above flood waters), changing wood to concrete, and beautifying the interiors with hardwood panelling and magnificent chandeliers. Governor General Dwight Davis (1929-32) was a notably active builder.

In 1920, the Executive Building was constructed for the Governor General and his staff. Until then, the Chief of State had to commute daily to his office at the Ayuntamiento Building, now still a ruin at one side of Plaza de Roma, by the Manila Cathedral. Governor General Leonard Wood was the last chief executive to hold office in Intramuros and the first in Malacañang.



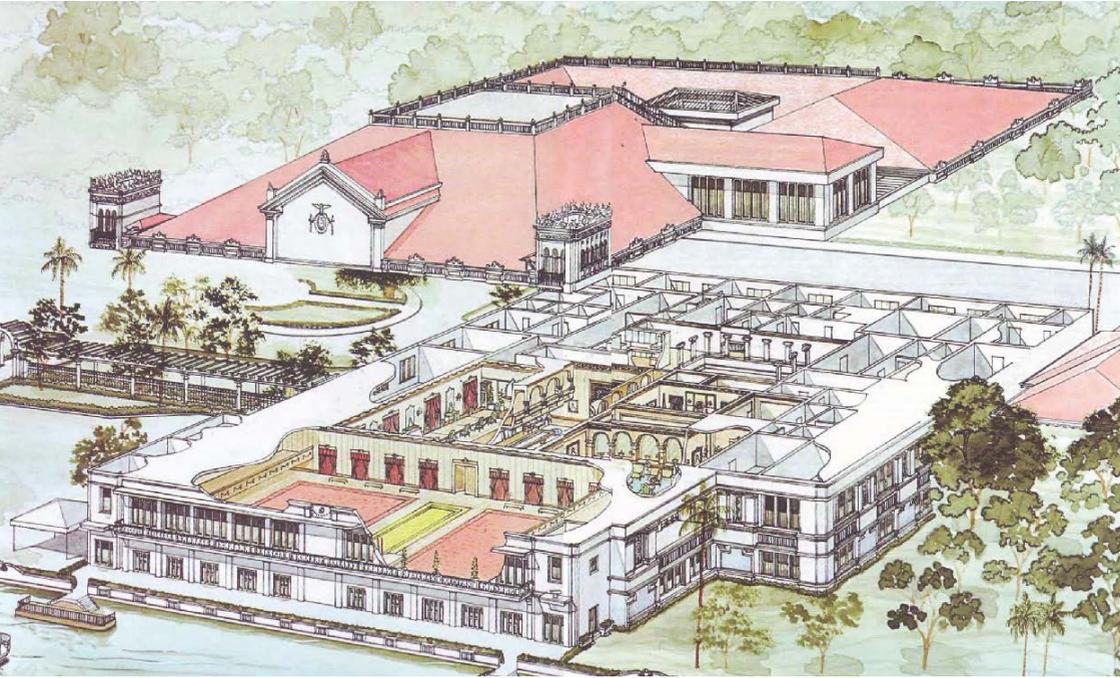
Beginning 1935, when Manuel L. Quezon moved to Malacañang as the President of the Commonwealth, Palace improvements were continued, including the construction of the Social Hall on the ground floor (now Heroes Hall), intended for dining, dancing, and non-official social affairs. It was Doña Aurora Quezon, then the First Lady, who saw to the construction of a Palace chapel, which is at the left of the main entrance, in time for the 33rd International Eucharistic Congress in 1937.

Malacañang survived the Second World War, the only survivor among the major government buildings of Manila. The southwest side of the Palace, which would have been the

State Dining Room and its service area, was damaged by shelling, but the rest was unscathed.

Malacañang continued to be the jewel of the still fashionable district of San Miguel, which unlike Ermita, Malate, and Paco across the river was spared by the war.

In 1972, the Executive Building was cleared of employees. Many transferred to the recently enlarged Administration Building (now called Mabini Hall). J.P. Laurel Street (formerly Aviles Street) was closed to traffic and the Pasig River dredged. The entire second floor of the Executive Building was converted into the large Maharlika Hall,



used for social functions and official gatherings.

The former servants' quarters at the west end of the Palace grounds, abutting the old San Miguel Brewery which has since transferred elsewhere, was remodelled in 1975 into the Premier Guest House, on time for the IMF-World Bank Boards of Governors meeting. The nearby Arlegui Guest House was built at the same time.

In 1978, the Palace was expanded, its facades on all four sides moved forward. The Presidential quarters were enlarged on the J.P. Laurel front, eliminating the small garden and driveway leading to the private entrance. A new dining room and

expanded guest suites were built on the main entrance front. On the riverside, a large Ceremonial Hall was built in place of the azoteas, veranda, and pavilion. A larger presidential bedroom was constructed on the remaining side, with a disco above, at roof level. The layout of the old rooms was retained, although the rooms themselves were enlarged and new bedroom suites inserted in what had been part of the garden.

The old Palace was gutted almost entirely, not only to meet the needs of the Presidential family but also because the buildings had been weakened by patch up renovation and repair jobs of a century.

The new Palace was made of poured concrete, concrete slabs, steel girders, and trusses, all concealed by elegant hardwood floors, panels, and ceilings. It was fully bulletproof and air-conditioned and has an independent power supply. Reconstruction was overseen by Architect Jorge Ramos and closely supervised by then First Lady Imelda Marcos. It was inaugurated on May 1, 1979, the Marcos silver wedding anniversary.

During a fire in 1982 many irreplaceable mementos in a small museum on the ground floor were lost. Air purification equipment was installed in 1983. In both instances, the First Family lived in the Premier Guest House.

The Marcos family bid Malacañang goodbye in the evening of February 25, 1986, a few hours after President Marcos took his oath for a six-year term before Chief Justice Ramon Aquino.

Fulfilling a campaign promise, President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino decided to live in what had been the Arlegui Guest House and held office in the Premier Guest House. Her successor, President Fidel Valdez Ramos, also decided to live in the Arlegui Guest House but held office in the Palace. President Joseph Ejercito

Estrada remodelled the Premier Guest House into a combination residence and office. In January 2001, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo returned to the Palace and made it both residence and office. President Benigno S. Aquino III chose not to reside in Malacañang but in Bahay Pangarap, located within Malacañang Park, but holds office in the Bonifacio Hall of Malacañang.

## QUICK FACTS

### PALACE AREA

Ground floor:

5,022 square meters

Second floor:

5, 210 square meters

Roofdeck:

1,175 square meters

Area of compound (Palace and Guest House):

2 hectares

### NUMBER OF ROOMS

Ground floor: 29 rooms

Second Floor: 32 rooms

# Malacañan Palace State Rooms

*Rizal Ceremonial Hall*

*Reception Hall*

*Aguinaldo State Dining Room*

*Presidential Study*

*Music Room*

*Heroes Hall*



## Rizal Ceremonial Hall

### *Uses of Room*

The Rizal Ceremonial Hall is used for state dinners, large assemblies, and mass oath takings of public officials. It is also used for the presentation of credentials of incoming ambassadors and conferment of state awards and decorations. It is also where presidents lie-in-state upon their death.

### *Historic Features of Room*

This room, the largest in the Palace, is used for state dinners and large assemblies, notably the mass oath takings of public officials begun by President Ramos. Orchestras sometimes play from the minstrels' galleries at the two ends of the hall.

Three large wood and glass chandeliers illuminate the hall. Carved and installed in 1979 by the famous Juan Flores of Betis, Pampanga, the chandeliers are masterpieces of Philippine artistry in wood.

The Hall used to be much smaller, built in 1936 where there used to be a smaller courtyard dating back to Spanish times. The Hall was in effect merely an extension of the Reception Hall. It had a coved ceiling similar to those to those of old Philippine homes, and glass doors opening to verandas on three sides overlooking the Pasig River and Malacañang Park. The room at the time boasted the largest chandelier in the Palace, purchased in 1937. Many



al fresco parties were held here, with round tables set on the azoteas and veranda for dinner and the Ceremonial Hall, doors thrown open, cleared for dancing. The azoteas, verandas, and the intimate pavilion in the middle were combined in 1979 into the present enormous hall.

## Reception Hall

### *Uses of Room*

Visitors assemble in this impressive room prior to a program or state function at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall beyond, or while waiting to be received by the President in the Presidential Study or the Music Room on the left, or before entering the Aguinaldo State Dining Room on the right.



### *Historic Features of Room*

This room was the largest of the Palace before the 1979 renovation. It was created by Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison, who demolished bedrooms to create a spacious area. It was embellished with a vaulted ceiling by President Quezon and totally rebuilt in 1979. Old photographs show presidents receiving guests close to the top of the Grand Staircase at New Year's Day "at home" and other affairs. An elaborate ceiling





was installed in the 1930s, carved by noted sculptor Isabelo Tampingco who depicted vases of flowers against a lattice background. The Tampingco woodwork, supported by concrete neoclassical pillars, was curved and in some eyes gave the room a coffin shape. This is supposedly why in the 1979 renovation, the Tampingcos were replaced with two facing balconies and the pillars removed. The balconies each have seven chandeliers, seven being the lucky number of the Marcoses.

Easily the most outstanding feature of the Reception Hall are the three large Czechoslovakian chandeliers bought in 1937. These have always been treasured and during the Second World War, were carefully disassembled prism by prism and hidden for safekeeping. They were taken out and reassembled after the war. Beneath the chandeliers was a massive table made of the



finest Philippine hardwoods, a gift to President Quezon from convicts in gratitude for their Presidential pardons. The table was a fixture of the Reception Hall from the Quezon to Marcos administrations, when it became the dining table for the presidential residence used by presidents Aquino and Ramos. It was restored to its traditional place in 2002, before being transferred to the Ramos Study Conference Room later. President Arroyo had it removed after Nini Quezon-Avanceña supported Mrs. Arroyo's impeachment.

Official portraits of all Philippine presidents are on the walls, from Emilio Aguinaldo to Benigno S. Aquino, III, painted by Fernando Amorsolo, Galo Ocampo, Antonio Garcia Llamas, Romeo Enriquez, Policarpio Caparas, and Lulu Coching-Rodriguez.



## Aguinaldo State Dining Room

### *Uses of Room*

This room is used mainly for Cabinet meetings and State Dinners for small groups. The adjacent Viewing Room is used as a holding room of aides of officials attending cabinet meetings in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

### *Historic Features of Room*

In the past, this was where presidents dined with state guests and official visitors. A long adjustable table could accommodate up to about fifty guests. The president would sit at the center of the table and the First Lady across from him. The chandeliers, which were transferred by President Quezon

from the Ayuntamiento de Manila, are Spanish, as are the gilded mirrors that have been here since 1877. The room was widened and a mirrored ceiling installed in 1979. President Arroyo had the some of the mirrors replaced with the Amorsolo paintings from the Ramos Study Conference Room, and the mirrors attached to the ceiling removed.

Beyond is a smaller room, just as long but narrower than the dining room. Intended for cabinet meetings and film showings, the room proved rather small and was rarely used as such. The room, called the Viewing Room, was more frequently used



to hold buffets for people meeting in the State Dining Room. Another 1979 innovation, this occupies what was a veranda overlooking the Palace driveway and garden.

It was named the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in 2003 in honor of President Emilio Aguinaldo, who



was confined in this room by the Americans following his capture in Palanan, Isabela in 1901.

## Presidential Study

### *Uses of Room*

This room remains the traditional and ceremonial office of the President of the Philippines.

### *Historic Features of Room*

Formerly called the Rizal Room, the Presidential Study was created in 1935 from what used to be a bedroom dating back to Spanish times. Francis Burton Harrison Jr. was born here during his father's term as Governor General. Since Governor General Frank Murphy brought with him the desk made for William Howard Taft, President Quezon installed a new set of desk and chairs used by all the Philippine presidents until President Marcos replaced them in 1979.

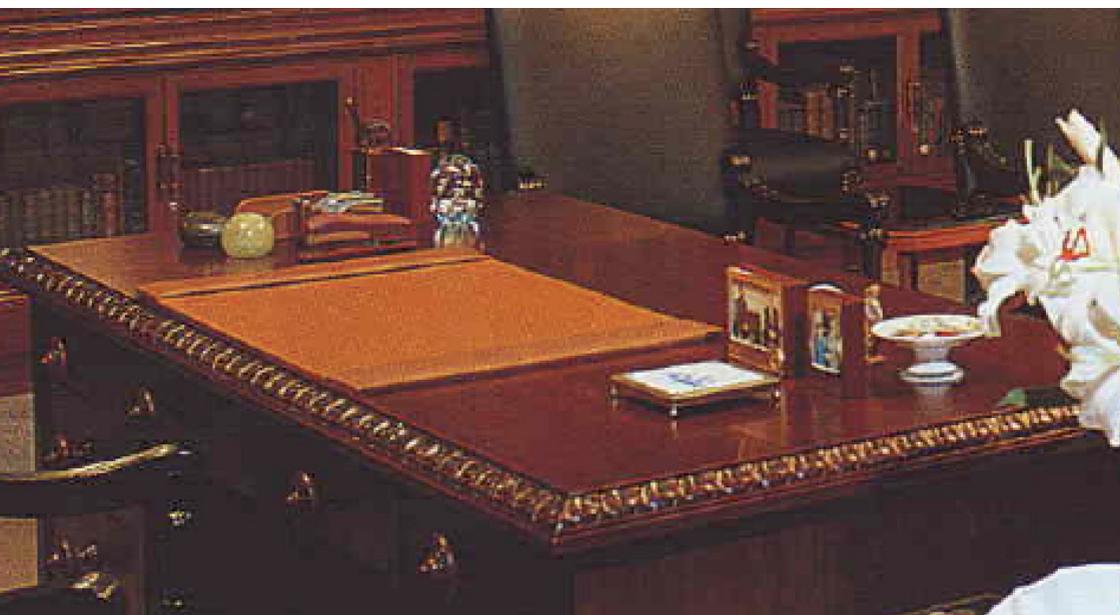
Subsequently, the old presidential desk and chairs were kept in President Marcos' private office until put away in storage during the Aquino administration. Late in his term, President Marcos restored the desk and chairs to the presidential study but they were again removed by President Estrada and used instead

in the First Lady's office in the New Executive Building. The presidential desk and chairs were restored once more to their traditional use and place by President Arroyo. The chandelier in this room dates to the Commonwealth as does the general design of the room, which however was expanded and rebuilt in 1979.

Presidents Quezon, Laurel, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, and Garcia used this office primarily in the afternoon and in the evening, for more confidential work, or to greet visitors and address the nation on radio. Presidents Macapagal and Marcos gradually abandoned the use of the Presidential Office in the Executive Building and began using the Presidential Study exclusively. Behind the Presidential Study is a



small conference room called the Study Conference Room. President Marcos used this as an extension of his office for confidential meetings. It continued to be used as office space until it was refurbished during the Estrada administration.



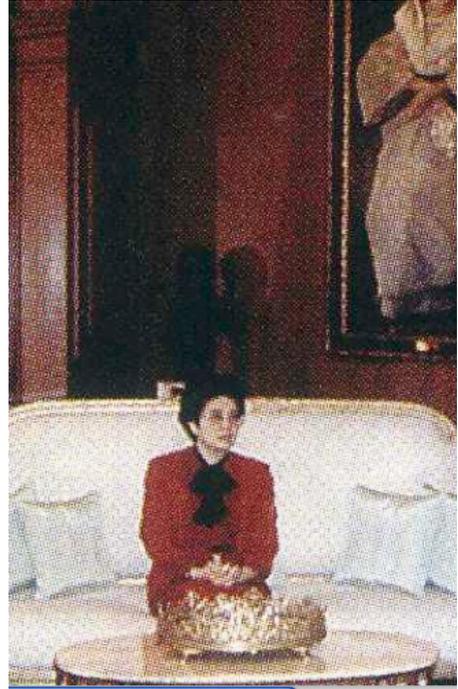
# Music Room

## *Uses of Room*

This room is where the First Lady traditionally receives her guests, and during President Corazon Aquino's administration, for receiving officials.

## *Historic Feature of Room*

Originally a bedroom during the Spanish and American colonial periods, the room's use changed over the years, and the room was later remodelled into a library for Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon in 1936. During the administration of President Quirino, the bookshelves were removed and turned into a Music Room, with sculptures by Guillermo Tolentino adorning the room. A Juan Luna masterpiece, "Una Bulaqueña," used to hang above the grand piano, while



"The Cellist" by Miguel Zaragosa hung across the room above the sofa.



Mrs. Imelda Marcos decorated the room in mint green. She would sit on the antique French sofa and the visitors on the armchairs. On rare occasions, small concerts were held here, featuring famous Filipino and foreign musicians. President Corazon Aquino used this room for receiving officials. President Estrada had the room refurnished with more comfortable sofas and easy chairs, maintaining the same color scheme.



# Heroes Hall

## *Uses of Room*

This room is being used as a venue for informal gatherings and can accommodate 400.

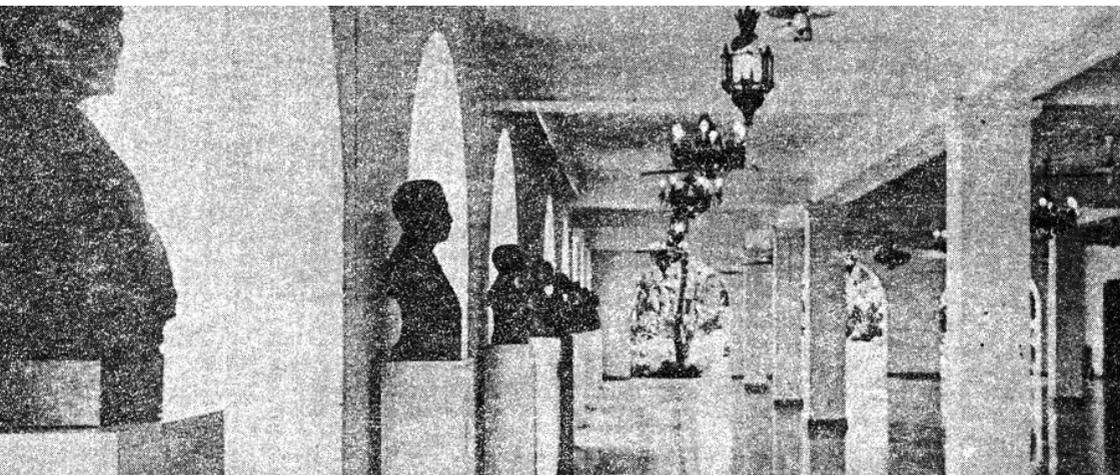
## *Historic Features of Room*

Originally named the Social Hall, it was constructed by President Quezon and was intended for informal gatherings, until it was renamed Heroes Hall by President Diosdado Macapagal and decorated with bronze busts of heroes by the renowned Filipino sculptor Guillermo Tolentino. The Hall, as large as the Rizal Ceremonial Hall directly above, received a mirrored ceiling in 1979 and for the rest of the Marcos era was used not only for meetings and informal gatherings but also for state dinners in honor of visiting Heads of State. Among the distinguished visitors entertained in this Hall by the Marcoses were the President

of Mexico, the Prime Minister of Thailand, and Princess Margaret of the United Kingdom.

It was from this room that Presidents Marcos and Estrada departed the palace for the last time in 1986 and 2001.

In 1998, the National Centennial Commission installed three large paintings specially commissioned for the hall. The one in the vestibule is by Carlos Valino, while the two others are by a group of artists headed by Karen Flores and Elmer Borlongan. The murals depict the panorama of Philippine history from the pre-Hispanic era to 1998. These are in addition to the portraits of various heroes painted by Florentino Macabuhay from 1940-1960 and displayed in the corridor leading to the Hall.





## Malacañan Palace Historic Rooms

*Magsaysay Dining Room*

*Garcia Room*

*Laurel Room*

*Macapagal Room*

*Marcos Room*



## Magsaysay Dining Room

Originally the State Dining Room during the Spanish era, this became the family living and dining room at the time of the Commonwealth. It features a special set of furniture, including a unique dining table with truncated corners to accommodate more diners, as well as China cabinets and sideboard featuring sphinxes, popular at the time. Favored by President Ramon Magsaysay as a location for his cabinet meetings during his presidency, the room was

named after him in August 31, 2003 by virtue of Proclamation 451 issued by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The Magsaysay Room occupies the State Dining Room of the Spanish and American eras, and the Family Dining Room of the Commonwealth and the Third Republic. The Commonwealth era furniture had been moved to the expanded dining and living areas of the private quarters.



Garcia Room

## Garcia Room

The Garcia Room was formerly a much smaller room, which led from the old Family Dining Room to the private apartments of the First Family in the North Wing. Enlarged and enclosed in 1979, it was named after President Carlos P. Garcia in December 17, 2002 by virtue of Proclamation No. 518 in remembrance of the President who used it as a Game Room during his term. The room serves as an anteroom to the living and dining room of the First Family and is furnished with antiques purchased during the Marcos administration together with more modern furniture dating from the Estrada presidency.

## Laurel Room

During the years of the Japanese occupation, then President Jose P. Laurel held office in Malacañan Palace while choosing to stay in his Paco residence. When the military situation worsened, President Laurel used this room as his bedroom from 1943 to 1945. Mrs. Laurel, however, remained at their Paco residence. Presidents Elpidio Quirino and Ramon Magsaysay both also used this room as their bedrooms throughout their Presidential stints. American President Dwight D. Eisenhower, resided in this bedroom while visiting the Philippines in 1960 during the term of President Carlos P. Garcia. The original room was demolished during the dictatorship

of President Ferdinand E. Marcos and converted into his private office.

By virtue of Proclamation No. 339 on March 10, 2003, the room was renamed the Laurel Room to recognize the President Laurel's service to the nation.

## Macapagal Room

This room is located in the North Wing of Malacañan Palace, which was constructed in 1937 to provide additional bedrooms for the First Family. It was first used by Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon. It was later occupied by President and Mrs. Sergio Osmeña, President and Mrs. Manuel Roxas, President Elpidio Quirino during his first term, and President and Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia. On January 16, 1962, President and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal moved into this room, having spent the first few weeks of his administration commuting morning and afternoon between their private residence at 108 Laura Street, San Juan and the Executive Office in Malacañan Palace.

During the reconstruction of the Palace from 1978 to 1979, this room was enlarged and greatly changed, although the location of this room conforms roughly to the old bedroom.

In recognition of President Macapagal's service to the nation, this room was named the Macapagal Room by virtue of Proclamation No. 478, signed on September 28, 2003 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

## Marcos Room

In 1978-79, finding Malacañan Palace decayed by time and in an advanced state of structural disrepair, the reconstruction of the Palace was ordered. Rebuilt under the supervision of Architect Jorge Ramos, Malacañan Palace was rebuilt in time to be re-inaugurated for the silver wedding anniversary of President and Mrs. Ferdinand E. Marcos on May 1, 1979.

Malacañan Palace was greatly enlarged, new façades built, and the rooms entirely redecorated. Among the new additions to the Palace was this room, which was constructed specifically as the bedroom for President Marcos.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 464 on September 11, 2003, naming this room after President Marcos, citing its historic value and connection to President Marcos.



## Kalayaan Hall State Rooms

*Quezon Executive Office*

*Quirino Council of State Room*

*Roxas Cabinet Room*

*Osmeña Room*

*Presidential Broadcast Studio*

*Old Vice President's Office*

# Kalayaan Hall State Rooms

Kalayaan Hall is the oldest part of the Palace and combines the histories of the American colonial period, the Commonwealth, and the Second and Third Republics. Built in the Renaissance-revivalist style of architecture, it stands on the grounds of Spanish-era picadero pavilion and has survived through the Second World War into the 21st century, making it one of the most intact pre-war public buildings in the country. The façade once sparkled with Romblon marble embedded in the concrete, but since the 1960s, coats of white paint have obscured it. The hall's imposing appearance can be attributed to its precast ornamentation, high ceilings for air circulation in the tropical climate, and wrought iron porte-cochere and balconies. This building has served as the center of executive power for generations.

The main hall at the second floor of Kalayaan Hall was once the location of the guest bedrooms during the American colonial period before it housed the executive offices during the Commonwealth. In 1968, the building was renovated to form the much larger Maharlika Hall, becoming the site for State Dinners and Citizens' Assemblies during the Marcos administration. On February 25, 1986, President Marcos took his last oath of office and gave his farewell speech from the hall's front west balcony. It was subsequently used as the Office of the Press Secretary until 2002, when it was transformed into the main gallery of the Presidential Museum and Library, with parts of the old State Dining table in the center, as well as the Gallery of Presidents, which is composed of objects and memorabilia – including clothing, personal effects, gifts, publications and documents – pertaining to the fifteen persons who have held the Presidency.

## Quezon Executive Office

### *Uses of Room*

This room is the official Executive Office, part of the Presidential Museum and Library, and is used to display memorabilia of former president Manuel L. Quezon. This may also be used as a meeting room for six to eight persons. It also houses a small portion of the collections of the Library.



### *Historic Features of Room*

This room was constructed in 1937-39 as the new Executive Office for presidents of the Philippines during the administration of Manuel L. Quezon, who was the first to use it. It was also one of the first airconditioned offices in the Philippines; centralized airconditioning was installed under the supervision of Mr. A. D. Williams in 1937. This room was then used for the office work and other duties of the President of the Philippines, while the Presidential Study in Malacañan Palace itself was used for more confidential meetings and work.

Presidents Laurel, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, and Magsaysay also used this room as their executive office during their presidencies. President Garcia began using the Presidential Study almost exclusively for official business during his term, a practice followed by Presidents Macapagal and Marcos. However, President Marcos had this room refurbished in 1972 and occasionally used it for official business, until this room became the office of General Fabian Ver. During the term of President Corazon Aquino this room was at first used by the Press Secretary and eventually fell into disuse, until it was restored in 2003.



## Quirino Council of State Room

### *Uses of Room*

This room served as the Council of State Room, is now part of the Presidential Museum and Library, and is used to display memorabilia of former president Elpidio Quirino. This may also be used as a meeting room for ten to fourteen persons. It also houses a small portion of the collections of the Library.

### *Historic Features of Room*

This room was constructed in 1937-39 as the Council of State Room. It was in this room that the newly-reconstituted Council of State during the administration of President Manuel L. Quezon met. It was also here that

the first meeting of National Economic Council, today's NEDA, was held in 1939. President Manuel L. Quezon preferred to have his cabinet meetings in this room, as did Presidents Elpidio Quirino, Carlos P. Garcia, and Diosdado Macapagal. Presidents Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Garcia, Macapagal, and Marcos also had important meetings in this room and it was here that officials generally took their oaths of office before the President of the Philippines. From the administration of President Manuel Roxas until Carlos P. Garcia, all treaties and conventions entered into by the Republic of the Philippine and foreign governments were also signed in this room.

Two presidents of the Philippines have taken their oath of office in this room. On April 17, 1948, after the sudden demise of President Manuel Roxas, Elpidio Quirino took his oath of office as President of the Philippines in this room. Carlos P. Garcia took his oath of office as President in this room on March 18, 1957, after the tragic death of President Ramon Magsaysay. During the administration of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, cabinet meetings were transferred to the State Dining Room (now the Aguinaldo Room) in Malacañan Palace, and this room was turned into part of a television studio. It was restored in 2003.

## Roxas Cabinet Room

### *Uses of Room*

This room served as the Cabinet Room, is now part of the Presidential Museum and Library, and is used to display memorabilia of former president Manuel Roxas. This may also be used as a meeting room for six to eight persons. It also houses a small portion of the collections of the Library.

### *Historic Features of the Room*

This room was part of the 1937-39 additions to the Executive Building. It was originally intended as the Cabinet Room, though used sparingly as such

by President Manuel L. Quezon. It was President Manuel Roxas who actively used this room for meetings of his cabinet, a practice continued until the early years of the Quirino administration. This room was used variously as a meeting and conference room and an office until it became the control room of a television studio in 1981. This room was restored to its former appearance in 2003.

## Osmeña Room

### *Uses of Room*

This room is now part of the Presidential Museum and Library, and is used to display memorabilia of former president Sergio Osmeña. This may also be used as a meeting room for six to eight persons.

### *Historic Features of Room*

This room was used from 1920 until 1939 as the Cabinet Room under the American Governors General and during the early years of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

During his outstanding career, Sergio Osmeña attended meetings in this room, first as a member of the Council of State in his capacity as Speaker of the House, and then Senate



President pro tempore. During the administration of President Manuel L. Quezon, then Vice President Sergio Osmeña was given the then-premier portfolio in the cabinet as Secretary of Public Instruction, and attended cabinet meetings here during that time. He also held office in this building as Vice President from 1935-1944. After the restoration of the Commonwealth government in 1945, President Osmeña held office in this building as well.

It was used by various offices before it was fully restored in 2007.

# Presidential Broadcast Studio

## *Uses of Room*

This room is now part of the Presidential Museum and Library and is used to brief museum visitors on house rules.

## *Historical Features of Room*

Between 1935 and 1939 during the pre-war years of the Commonwealth of the Philippines under President Manuel L. Quezon, Dwight D. Eisenhower, then the assistant military adviser to the Philippine government, held office here within the East Room of the Old Executive Building. On June 15, 1960 during his State Visit to the Philippines—the first visit of an American president to the country—President Eisenhower returned to this room and with President Carlos P. Garcia shared his memories of the years spent here in his old office.

During the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo this room was made into the Presidential Broadcast Studio. It gave people the chance to see their president at work. The Presidential Broadcast Studio commenced operations on January 8, 2008.





## Old Vice President's Office

Completed in 1939, the rooms in this eastern part of the second floor originally comprised the offices of the Vice President, and were used as such until the imposition of Martial Law in 1972. The Southwest Gallery exhibits items evoking the life and administration of President Corazon Aquino, while the Northeast Gallery features portraits of the Vice Presidents done by various artists, as well as items about President Benigno S. Aquino III and his father, former Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr.

# Kalayaan Hall Historic Rooms

*Old Governor's Office*

*Old Executive Secretary's Office*



## Old Governor General's Office

This served as the Governor-General's office from Leonard Wood to Frank Murphy. It was the Executive Secretary's office from 1935-1936. By this time, American authority was long established at the Palace, starting with Military Governors Wesley Merritt (1898), Elwell S. Otis (1898-1900), and Arthur MacArthur (1900-1901). The era of American rule (189-1935) is the focus of the old Governor General's Office gallery, and includes the subsequent civil government that was inaugurated on July 4, 1901 under William Howard Taft (1901-1902). All the military and

civil governors lived at the Palace; after Taft came Luke E. Wright (1904-1906), Henry Clay Ide (1906), James F. Smith (1906-1909), William Cameron Forbes (1909-1913), Francis Burton Harrison (1913-1921), Leonard Wood (1921-1928), Henry Stimson (1928-1929), Dwight F. Davis (1929-1932), Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (1932-1933), and Frank Murphy (1933-1935). Harrison was responsible for the construction of the Executive Building, and from 1921 onward Malacañan Palace hosted the offices of the executive as well as the residences of the Governor General.



## Old Vice Governor's Office

An art competition, participated in by the children of the employees of the Office of the President, was held in the late 1970s with the Malacañang compound, its buildings, and prominent aspects as the subject. Displayed here in what used to be the Vice Governor General's Office from 1920 to 1935 are some of the entries executed in various media, some showing features of the compound which no longer exist or are awaiting restoration. This room is currently used as the office of the Director of the Presidential Museum and Library.

# Old Executive Secretary's Office

This room was used by President Manuel L. Quezon as his office from 1935-1936. It then became the office of Secretary Jorge B. Vargas, the first Executive Secretary. It served as the Executive Secretary's office until the

Hidalgo, Maximo Viola, and Ferdinand Blumentritt. With the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution in 1896 and the establishment of the First Philippine Republic in 1899 (after the overthrow of Spanish rule



Macapagal Administration. The Old Executive Secretary's Office Gallery contains an exhibit on the era of Reform, Revolution and the First Philippine Republic (c. 1860s-1901), during which many heroes of the Philippines had fateful encounters at Malacañan Palace. The national hero Jose Rizal was an occasional visitor in his advocacy for reform and progress and the exhibit features a significant quantity of rare Rizaliana from the Palace collections, as well as items related to such personages as Apolinario Mabini, Felix Resurrection

by the United States the previous year), Filipinos were fighting a war of independence, substantially ended only after President Emilio Aguinaldo (1899-1901) was captured and brought to Malacañan Palace. After being held under house arrest, he dissolved the Republic on April 1, 1901. Today, the walls are lined with portraits of the First Ladies, painted by Lulu Coching Rodriguez.

# Mabini Hall

Mabini Hall began as the Budget Building with the creation of the Budget Commission (now the Department of Budget and Management) in 1936. After World War II, it housed, for a time, the Supreme Court, as the Ayuntamiento de Manila had been destroyed during the Battle for Manila in February 1945.

In the postwar years, it was expanded on either side to form a greatly enlarged Administration Building containing the majority of administrative offices in the Palace compound. Plans to demolish it and build a high rise building in its place after it was gutted in a fire in 1992 were completely dropped due to budgetary constraints. President Fidel V. Ramos supervised its reconstruction as a spartan but well-ventilated and lit office complex, and renamed it Mabini Hall.

## Bonifacio Hall

The first major change after the imposition of Martial Law in 1975 was the transformation of the servant's quarters to what is now known as the Premier Guest House. The building became the temporary residence of the Marcos family in 1975, when repairs were made to the Palace after a fire, as well as during the rebuilding of the Palace in 1978 and during the refurbishing and repair of the Palace in the remaining years of the Marcos presidency.

President Corazon C. Aquino used this building as her office from 1986 to 1992. The Ramos administration relegated this building to secondary status despite its integration into the New Executive Building. It was renovated in 1998 as a residence for President Joseph Ejercito-Estrada and his family. In 2003, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo renamed this building Bonifacio Hall in honor of its plebeian roots. It currently houses the Private Office of President Benigno S. Aquino III.



## Aquino Room

President Ferdinand E. Marcos, during the course of his dictatorship, occasionally used this room as his personal bedroom. In 1983, this was the room used by then President Marcos during the assassination of Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino. Ironically, when President Corazon C. Aquino, widow of the slain Senator, rose to power in 1986, it was converted into her Private Office. This room was later partially used as the

Executive Office during the presidency of Fidel V. Ramos from 1992 to 1998. President Joseph Estrada again changed its function and reverted it back to the bedroom of the President when he moved into the Premier Guest house in 1998. The room was officially named the Aquino Room, by virtue of Proclamation No. 323 dated January 27, 2003, in honor of President Corazon C. Aquino. It is now the office of President Benigno S. Aquino III.

## Estrada Room

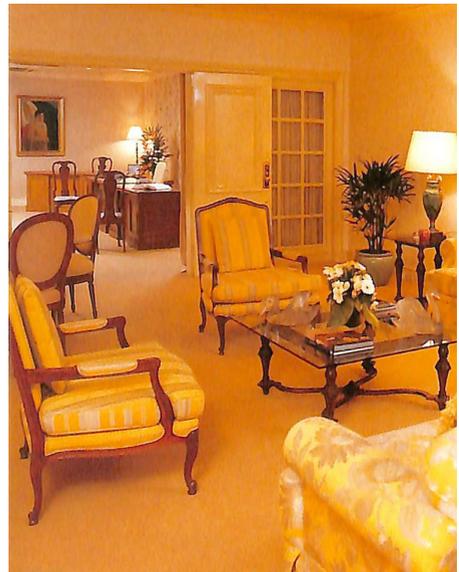
President Joseph Ejercito-Estrada was the first president after President Ferdinand E. Marcos to reside in the Malacañang Palace compound. He, however, chose to stay in the Premier Guest House (now Bonifacio Hall) instead of the Palace itself. This prompted a need to refurbish the building and to create a suitable office space for the President.

This room served as President Estrada's Private Office throughout the duration of his stay in Malacañan Palace in the years 1998 to early 2001. On March 31, 2003, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 349, naming this room after President Estrada.



## Yellow Room

The Yellow Room is used by the current President as a reception room. Originally a separate room, it was attached to the Presidential Bedroom during renovations under President Joseph Ejercito-Estrada. It contains items associated with President Corazon C. Aquino, such as a yellow baby grand piano given to her by the Yamaha company and her first official state portrait, that was formerly displayed at the Reception Hall of the Palace until 2003. It has been given the unofficial designation of Yellow Room under the administration of President Benigno S. Aquino III.



# New Executive Building

In 1936, President Manuel L. Quezon was the first to propose the purchase of the nearby San Miguel Brewery as additional office space. Later, President Ferdinand E.

Marcos initiated plans to transform it into an integral part of the Palace. However, it was only under President Corazon C. Aquino that reconstruction and refurbishing of the New Executive Building took place.

Its architectural elements deliberately pay homage to the Palace of the Third Republic. It serves the very utilitarian purpose of providing much-needed administrative space.

Nevertheless, its newness and lack of proximity to the Palace led Aquino's successors to revert back to using the Palace for official business, starting with President Fidel V. Ramos. Currently, it houses the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson, the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office, the Presidential Communications Operations Office, and the Malacañang Press Briefing Room.

# BAHAY PANGARAP AND MALACAÑANG PARK

Malacañang Park was created when rice fields on the south bank of the Pasig River across from the official residence of the President of the Philippines were acquired on orders of President Manuel L. Quezon in 1936-1937. Intended as a recreational retreat, the main features of the planned complex for the park were three buildings: a recreation hall used for official entertaining, a community assembly hall for conferences with local government officials, and a rest house directly opposite the Palace across the Pasig River which would serve as the venue for informal activities and social functions of the President and First Family.

The buildings constructed by the Bureau of Public Works were the product of designs by architects Juan Arellano and Antonio Toledo. The prewar park contained – in addition to the rest house, community assembly hall, and recreation hall – a putting green, stables, and shell tennis courts.

President Jose P. Laurel had the putting green expanded into a small golf course after an assassination attempt on him in Wack-Wack golf course.

The existing gazebo in the golf course dates to the Laurel administration.

President Manuel Roxas further improved the golf course in Malacañang Park in addition to maintaining a truck garden as part of the food self-sufficiency program of his administration.

During the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay, an estero was filled in joining the properties of Malacañang Park and the Bureau of Animal Industry as part of a GSIS housing project for presidential guards and other workers.

The Park grounds were refurbished through the efforts of First Lady Evangelina Macapagal in the early 1960s. She renamed the rest house Bahay Pangarap (Dream House). In the subsequent presidency of Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malacañang Park became increasingly identified with the Presidential Guards, known today as the Presidential Security Group. It was during the Marcos administration that the Bureau of Animal Industry building became the headquarters of the Presidential

Guards. General Fabian Ver gained jurisdiction over some of the historic buildings, including the recreation hall, which became (and remains) the PSG gymnasium, and the community assembly hall, which was turned into the presidential escorts building.

Under President Fidel V. Ramos, the Bahay Pangarap was restored and became the club house of the Malacañang Golf Club (the old Club House had become the residence of President Marcos' mother, Mrs. Josefa Edralin Marcos). Restoration was supervised by Architect Francisco Mañosa at the initiative of First Lady Amelita M. Ramos. It was inaugurated as the New Bahay Pangarap on March 15, 1996 as an alternate venue for official functions in addition to recreational and social activities.

In 2008, the historic Bahay Pangarap was essentially demolished by Architect Conrad Onglao and rebuilt in the contemporary style (retaining the basic shape of the roof as a nod to the previous historic structure), replacing the the Commonwealth-era swimming pool and pergolas with a modern swimming pool. It was inaugurated on December 19, 2008 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at a Christmas reception for the Cabinet. Administrative Order No. 251, issued

on December 22, 2008, placed the administration of Bahay Pangarap under the Internal House Affairs Office of the Office of the President of the Philippines.

Malacañang Park has always been a recreational park, and is not a military facility. The facilities and area of the PSG are distinct from the demarcation of Malacañang Park.

President Benigno S. Aquino III became the first President of the Philippines to make Bahay Pangarap his official residence, although previous presidents have stayed there.

# II. THE PRESIDENCY

## Introduction

The President of the Philippines is elected by direct vote of the people, and has a term of six years with no provision for reelection.

There have been 15 Presidents of the Philippines from the establishment of the office on January 23, 1899, in the Malolos Republic. President Emilio Aguinaldo is the inaugural holder of the office and held the position until March 23, 1901, when he was captured by the Americans during the Philippine-American War.

The Office of the President of the Philippines was abolished after the capture of Aguinaldo, and ceased to exist until the inauguration of the Philippine Commonwealth in 1935.

After the first national elections were held on September 16, 1935, Manuel L. Quezon was elected as the second President of the Philippines and the first President of the Philippine Commonwealth. Originally elected to a six-year term, President Quezon would stay in office until 1944, because the 1935 Constitution was amended in 1940 to allow reelection, but shortened the term of the President to four years. Quezon was elected again in 1941—however, due to constitutional limitations, he would have not served the full four years—his term started on November 15, 1935, and thus would end on November 15, 1943. In 1943, however, President Quezon had to take an emergency oath of office, extending his term, because of the outbreak of World War II.

When World War II forced the Philippine Commonwealth into exile, a different government would be installed in the Philippines, which would later to be known as the Second Republic of the Philippines. Jose P. Laurel would lead this government as the third President of the Philippines and the only President of the Second Republic. Laurel stayed in office from 1943 to 1944 when the Second Republic was abolished. At this point, the President of the Second Republic

would overlap with the President of the Commonwealth. On September 17, 1945, however, the laws of the Second Republic were declared null and void by the Supreme.

The Philippine Commonwealth would be reestablished on Philippine soil in 1945 with President Sergio Osmeña as the second President of the Commonwealth and the fourth President of the Philippines. Osmeña took his oath of office in the United States after the demise of President Quezon. Osmeña would run in the first post-war presidential elections held in 1946, but lose to Senate President Manuel Roxas.

President Roxas was elected in 1946 as the third President of the Philippine Commonwealth, first President of the independent Republic of the Philippines, and the fifth President of the Philippines. He would usher in the end of the Philippine Commonwealth on July 4, 1946, and the birth of the Third Republic. Roxas would be followed by Presidents Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos P. Garcia, and Diosdado Macapagal as the second, third, fourth, and fifth President of the Third Republic and the sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth President of the Philippines, respectively.

President Ferdinand E. Marcos became the last President of the Third Republic when he declared martial law in 1972, while the 1973 Constitution suspended the 1935 Constitution, he only formally proclaims the “New Republic”—the Fourth—in 1981. Marcos became the first President of the Fourth Republic and the tenth President of the Philippines overall. Marcos stayed in office for 20 years—the longest serving President of the Philippines.

The current President, Benigno S. Aquino III, is the fifth President of the Fifth Republic and the 15th President of the Philippines.

In 1986, the EDSA Revolution successfully installed Corazon C. Aquino as the new President of the Philippines—the 11th in the country’s history. President Aquino served as the second and last President of the Fourth Republic at the beginning of her term. A transitional, Freedom Constitution was put into effect in the same year. When the 1987 Constitution was put into full force and effect, the Fourth Republic was ended and the Fifth Republic inaugurated. Thus, President Aquino became the first President of the Fifth Republic. She would be followed by Presidents Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the second, third, and fourth President of the Fifth Republic and 12th, 13th, and 14th President of the Philippines, respectively.

# The President and his Predecessors



## Manuel L. Quezon

Since 1979, this 1940 portrait by Fernando Amorsolo has been hung in the Palace Reception Hall. Prior to this, Quezon's first state portrait by Russian-born American artist Leon Gordon (1888-1943) was used from 1937-1979; the Gordon portrait is now installed at the main wall of the Quezon Executive Office at Malacañan Palace.



## Jose P. Laurel

Portrayed by Fernando Amorsolo in white tie and tails, Laurel's portrait dates back to 1943, the year the Second Republic was inaugurated.



## Sergio Osmeña

This portrait of Osmeña was also by Fernando Amorsolo.



## Manuel Roxas

This portrait of Roxas was also by Fernando Amorsolo.



## Elpidio Quirino

This portrait of Quirino was the last presidential portrait painted by Fernando Amorsolo.



### **Ramon Magsaysay**

This portrait by Antonio Garcia-Llamas was actually painted when Magsaysay was Secretary of National Defense. Together with the Gordon portrait of Quezon, it is the only impressionistic presidential portrait.



### **Carlos P. Garcia**

This is the first presidential portrait to include the presidential flag. It was done by Rolando Ponce Lampitoc Sr. in the style of Fernando Amorsolo.



### **Diosdado Macapagal**

This is the second presidential portrait to include the presidential flag, with the royal blue color used in the 1960s. It was also done by Rolando Lampitoc Sr.



### **Ferdinand E. Marcos**

This portrait of Marcos is a substitute for the official portrait done by Vicente Manansala in 1972. The Manansala portrait was lost during the EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986.



### **Corazon Aquino**

This portrait by Lulu Coching Rodriguez replaced Aquino's first state portrait, which was transferred to the Yellow Room in 2003.



### **Fidel V. Ramos**

Prior to 2003, Ramos used a wood etching made by convicts as his official portrait. That portrait hangs in the Ramos Room of the Palace. The present official portrait was made by Lulu Coching Rodriguez.



### **Joseph Ejercito Estrada**

This portrait of Estrada was actually the first presidential portrait done by Lulu Coching Rodriguez. After the Estrada presidency, former presidents Aquino and Ramos decided to replace their previous official portraits with new ones by the same artist.



### **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**

In Arroyo's first year in office, she had an official photograph, not a portrait, hanging in the central space of the Reception Hall traditionally reserved for the incumbent president. Her official portrait by Lulu Coching Rodriguez was unveiled in 2002.



### **Benigno S. Aquino III**

This portrait by Lulu Coching Rodriguez was unveiled in Aquino's first year in office.

# Benigno S. Aquino III and the Presidency

## 1

Aquino is the first unmarried president in the history of the country.

Aquino is the first president with no children.

Aquino is the first deputy speaker of the House to later become president.

Aquino is the first marksman to become president since Ferdinand Marcos, who belonged to the University of the Philippines rifle team.

Aquino is the first president since 1992 to be inaugurated into office without having been vice-president first.

Aquino is the first president since Diosdado Macapagal to be elected as the candidate of the Liberal Party. He is also the first president since Macapagal not to have changed political parties.

Aquino is the first post-EDSA president to exceed Garcia's 1957 plurality at 42.08%. Majority Presidents: Quezon (68% in 1935 and 81.78% in 1941), Roxas (54% in 1946), Quirino (51% in 1949), Magsaysay (68.9% in 1953), Macapagal (55% in 1961), Marcos (54.76% in 1965, 61.5% in 1969), Aquino (approx. 51%). Plurality Presidents: Garcia (41.3%) was the only president elected by plurality prior to 1972. The lowest plurality ever was Fidel V. Ramos (23.6% in 1992). Estrada at 39.6% in 1998 was the first post-EDSA president to nearly match Garcia's 1957 plurality.

Aquino is the first to use the suffix -III. There have been no Juniors or the Thirds elected president previously.

Aquino is the first president to have a February birthday. Two presidents were born in January: Roxas (Jan. 1), Cory Aquino (Jan. 25); three in March: Laurel (Mar. 9), Ramos (Mar. 18), Aguinaldo (Mar. 22); two in April: Arroyo (Apr. 5), Estrada (Apr. 19); two in August: Quezon (Aug. 19), Magsaysay (Aug. 31); three in September: Osmeña (Sep. 9), Marcos (Sep. 11), Macapagal (Sep. 28); two in November: Garcia (Nov. 4), Quirino (Nov. 16).

The President of the Philippines uses license plate No. 1.

## 2

Aquino is the second child of a former president to become president in his own right. Arroyo was the first presidential child to become president.

Aquino is the second president from Tarlac. The first was his mother Corazon Aquino.

Aquino is only the second president who does not drink. Aguinaldo was the only non-drinker previously.

Aquino was the second president to be sworn in by a Filipino associate justice of the Supreme Court (his mother was the first), but the fourth president sworn in by an associate justice of a Supreme Court. Quezon in 1943 for the indefinite extension of his term, and Osmeña who succeeded into office in 1944, were sworn in by U.S. Associate Justices Felix Frankfurter and Robert H. Jackson, respectively, in Washington, D.C.

Aquino is the second president to have studied at the Ateneo de Manila, but the first to have graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Two presidents only partially resided in Malacañan Palace: Laurel, and Estrada (who stayed in the Guest House).

Two presidents were elected by the legislature and not in a national election: Aguinaldo and Laurel.

Two presidents were re-elected to second terms after serving full first terms: Quezon and Marcos.

Two presidents were brought to power by People Power revolts: Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, our two female presidents.

### 3

Aquino is the third president with no spouse upon the assumption of the presidency: Quirino was a widower, Corazon Aquino, a widow. Unlike Quirino and Corazon Aquino, who had children, Aquino III has none.

Aquino at 50 is the third-youngest elected president (Magsaysay remains the youngest ever nationally-elected to the presidency), and the fourth-youngest president after Aguinaldo, Magsaysay, and Marcos. He is also the youngest of the presidents who became chief executive in their 50s. The ages of his predecessors at their inauguration/succession are as follows: Aguinaldo, 29; Quezon, 57; Laurel, 51; Osmeña, 67; Roxas, 54; Quirino, 57; Magsaysay, 46; Garcia, 60; Macapagal, 51; Marcos, 48; Aquino, 53; Ramos, 64; Estrada, 61; and Arroyo, 54).

Aquino is third to use his second given name as his middle initial, as Quezon and Laurel did.

Aquino is the third to engage in shooting as a sport (Quezon and Marcos engaged in hunting). He is also the third to be fond of billiards (Garcia and Macapagal also played billiards).

Aquino is the third president to only hold office in, but not be a resident of, Malacañan Palace, following Corazon Aquino and Ramos.

Aquino was the third generation of Aquinos to serve in the Senate: his grandfather and father were also senators.

#### 4

Aquino was the fourth president to be sworn in by an Associate Justice. Quezon, when his term was extended in exile in 1943, renewed his oath of office before Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter. Osmeña, who succeeded to the presidency in exile, was sworn in by Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson (thus, two presidents have been sworn in by foreign justices, both because they headed governments-in-exile). Corazon Aquino was sworn in by Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee. Eleven presidents were sworn in by a chief justice: Quezon (1935, 1941), Laurel, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Garcia, Macapagal, Marcos, Ramos, Estrada, and Arroyo. Aguinaldo was the only one to be sworn in by a Speaker of the House.

Four presidents were not inaugurated either on December 30 or June 30: Aguinaldo (January 23, 1899), Quezon (November 15, 1935 and November 15, 1943), Laurel (October 14, 1943), and Roxas (May 28, 1946).

Four vice-presidents who succeeded to the presidency also took their oaths on dates different from the traditional inaugural date: Osmeña (August 1, 1944); Quirino (April 17, 1948), Garcia (March 18, 1957), and Arroyo (January, 2001).

Most number of times a president has taken the oath of office: four, for Marcos (1965, 1969, the 1981 and 1986 “inaugurals”); followed by three, for Quezon (1935 in Manila, 1941 in Corregidor, 1943 in Washington, D.C., also before three different individuals); Quirino (1948 in Malacañan, 1949); Garcia (1957, twice: upon succession in March Malacañan and election in December); Arroyo (2001 in Quezon City, 2004 in Cebu).

## 5

Aquino comes from a family of five siblings.

At age 50, Aquino is going to be the 15th President of the Philippines. He became president at the same age at which his father, Benigno S. Aquino Jr., died. Officially, Aquino’s fourteen predecessors will be: Emilio Aguinaldo, Manuel L. Quezon, Jose P. Laurel, Sergio Osmeña, Manuel Roxas, Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos P. Garcia, Diosdado Macapagal, Ferdinand E. Marcos, Corazon C. Aquino, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Aquino is the fifth President of the Fifth Republic. The present republic was established with the ratification of the 1987 Constitution. The previous republics are the First (Malolos, 1899-1901); Second (the Japanese Occupation, 1943-1945); the Third (from independence in 1946 to 1972); the Fourth (the “New Republic”

proclaimed in 1981). Aguinaldo was the lone President of the First Republic; Quezon was the first President of the Commonwealth and Roxas the last; Laurel was lone President of the Second Republic; Roxas was the first President of the Third Republic and Marcos, the last; Marcos was the first President of the Fourth Republic and Corazon Aquino, briefly served under the Fourth Republic but proclaimed a revolutionary government. The Fifth Republic came into being with the ratification of the 1987 Constitution, and Corazon Aquino, Ramos, Estrada, and Arroyo were the presidents of the Fifth Republic.

Aquino received over 15 million votes; his winning margin was over five million votes.

Aquino was the fifth president to take his oath of office on June 30: Marcos, Ramos, Estrada, and Arroyo were the others. Starting with Quezon's second inaugural in 1941 until Marcos' second inaugural in 1969 (with the exception of the special election called in 1946) presidents were inaugurated on Rizal Day, December 30. Six presidents Quezon (1941), Quirino (1949), Magsaysay, Garcia (1957), Macapagal, Marcos (1965, 1969) had inaugurals on December 30.

Aquino is the fifth public smoker to be president: Quezon, Roxas, Garcia, and Estrada were/are all smokers.

## 6

Aquino is the sixth president to be elected to a single six-year term. The others were: Quezon in 1935 [term subsequently extended by constitutional amendment), Aquino in 1986, Ramos in 1992, Estrada in 1998, and Arroyo in 2004. He will be only the second President to

serve an exact 6 year term: only President Ramos has, so far, served an exact 6 year term; President Quezon's original term was modified to permit re-election for an additional two years; President Corazon Aquino's term was extended by a few months to synchronize her term with that of new officials elected under the 1987 Constitution; President Estrada's term was shortened by EDSA Dos; and President Arroyo served the remainder of her predecessor's term and an additional six years. Under the 1935 Constitution, only Diosdado Macapagal served an exact four-year term.

7

Aquino is the seventh president to be inaugurated at the Quirino Grandstand. Six other presidents were also inaugurated at the Quirino Grandstand: Quirino (1949), Magsaysay (1953), Garcia (1957), Macapagal (1961), Marcos (1965, etc.), and Ramos (1992).

Aquino is the the seventh to use a middle initial after Manuel L. Quezon, Jose P. Laurel, Carlos P. Garcia, Marcos, Corazon C. Aquino (who used her maiden name as her middle initial), and Fidel V. Ramos. Aguinaldo, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Macapagal did not use middle initials at all. Estrada uses a special name combining his real family name, Ejercito, with his screen name. Arroyo prefers to use the hyphenated Macapagal-Arroyo. The initials of President-elect Aquino are BSAlII, following the practice of his father and grandfather, he uses his second given name as his middle initial, the same practice followed by Presidents Quezon and Laurel.

The shortest inaugural address at a regular inaugural was Ramon Magsaysay's in 1953: 8 minutes.

If you include Laurel, Ramos, Macapagal, and his daughter Arroyo who were/are occasional (social) smokers, Aquino III is the ninth president who a smokes.

Juancho Dulay Barreto on Twitter pointed out that Aquino was proclaimed president-elect on June 9, 2010 – exactly 9 months after his declaration of candidacy on September 9, 2009.

He is the ninth to be proclaimed president-elect by the legislature. The first was Manuel L. Quezon, followed by Manuel Roxas, Ramon Magsaysay, Diosdado Macapagal, Ferdinand E. Marcos, Fidel V. Ramos, Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (eighth if you don't count Arroyo's proclamation on the basis of the Quirino and Garcia precedents). While Congress certified the election of Elpidio Quirino and Carlos P. Garcia, they had succeeded into office previously, and were already serving as president when elected to a full term; thus, they were not referred to as presidents-elect. Aguinaldo and Laurel were not elected president in a national election, they were made president by a vote of the national assembly and thus never president-elect. Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency by means of the People Power Revolution and was not proclaimed by the Batasang Pambansa.

Aquino is the ninth president to have served as a congressman.

Nine presidents lived in Malacañan Palace: Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas, Quirino, Magsaysay, Garcia, Macapagal, Marcos, and Arroyo. Three presidents (Quirino and Garcia upon succession, Marcos in 1986) have taken oaths of office there. Four presidents have had to flee because of war or revolution: Quezon, Laurel, Marcos, and Estrada.

Aquino III is the ninth president to swear on a bible. Magsaysay was the first to take his oath on a bible: Garcia, Macapagal, Marcos, Aquino, Ramos, Estrada, and Arroyo followed suit. Aguinaldo, Quezon, Laurel, Osmeña, Roxas and Quirino – belonging to generations closer to the revolutionary era – did not take their oaths on a bible. Magsaysay and Marcos took their oath on two bibles each in 1953 and 1965.

## 10

Aquino is the tenth senator to become a president.

Aquino is the tenth president to be inaugurated in Manila. The other nine who were inaugurated in Manila were Quezon in 1935, Laurel in 1943, Roxas in 1946, Quirino in 1949, Magsaysay in 1953, Garcia in 1957, Macapagal in 1961, Marcos in 1965 etc., and Ramos in 1992.



# Official Gazette

