

Justice Davide's Contribution to the Formulation of the 1987 Constitution

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The Speech pays honor to Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. by focusing on his contribution to the creation of the 1987 Constitution. First, the events that led to the creation of the new Constitution was the People Power Revolution which culminated with the installation of President Corazon Aquino as the first woman President of the Philippines. She abandoned the 1973 Constitution paved the way to the creation of the Constitutional Commission which was given the herculean task of creating a new constitution.

Evident on the Records of the Constitutional Commission was the contribution and arguments of Hilario Davide, Jr. His footprints can be found in every article of the Constitution. This Speech presents these footprints that are now embodied in the greatest law of the land.

The first notable contribution was in the Preamble, where Davide argued for the invocation of God's name. Second, the Article on National Territory reflects the arguments raised by Davide regarding Sabah. Third, in the Article on Declaration of Principles, Davide was successful in requiring the State to "take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption," to implement "a policy of full public disclosure of all transactions involving public interest," and to "assure equal access to opportunities to public service." Fourth, in the Article on Bill of Rights, Davide moved to add "as prescribed by law" in provision involving right to privacy and communications and correspondence. Fifth, Davide was a gallant defender of the purity of Philippine citizenship.

Perhaps, his most notable contributions are in the Articles on the Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary. His contributions were later on raised in Supreme Court decisions. Davide also contributed to the constitutional provisions on the creation of constitutional commissions, local governments, accountability of public officers, national economy, social justice, education, and even the Constitution's general provisions, amendments, and transitory provisions. His efforts in the creation of the 1987 Constitution is truly remarkable.