

The Vice-President Under the Constitution

Diosdado P. Macapagal

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SUBJECT(S): CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

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Vice-President Diosdado Macapagal, in this speech, discusses the Office of the Vice-President under the 1935 Constitution. His discussion revolves mainly on three constitutional issues: first, the necessity of having a Vice-President; second, the circumstances under which the functions of the President shall devolve upon the Vice President; and third, the functions that the Vice President shall discharge.

He also discusses the deliberations of the Code Commission in abolishing the position of Vice-Presidency and in deciding to keep the said office. In addition, he talks about the constitutional vacuum created by the ambiguity of the provision in the Constitution which provides that the Vice-President shall take charge in case the President is unable to discharge the powers and functions of his office. The question on what functions the Vice-President shall discharge and on who shall determine such functions are also discussed.

For his conclusion, he recommends that an amended be made to make the Vice-President the presiding officer of the Senate, to resolve the constitutional vacuum mentioned above and that pending such amendments, a law be passed to give the Vice-President the right to have access to all public records.