1A. Decree of June 18, 1898, establishing the Dictatorial Government.* (English translation)

To my Country:

God has willed that I should be placed in the position that I now occupy, although I am cognizant of my unworthiness. But unable to shirk the responsibility which God has placed upon my shoulders and imbued by pure love of country, I hereby salute you, dear Motherland.

My entire life has been dedicated to the liberation of our country, and the recovery of our lost freedom.

The first duty of a leader is to comply with the wishes of the governed. For this reason, I am compelled to establish a Dictatorial Government with full authority, civil and military, in order to determine first the real needs of the country.

I also see the need of establishing in each town a government to preserve peace and order which, in turn, shall be the foundation for the government of the Republic of the Philippines as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

In view of the above, I hereby decree the following:

ARTICLE 1. All residents in each town shall take the necessary steps to consummate the complete annihilation or capture of all Spanish soldiers in their respective communities, and give them the treatment recognized by civilized nations.

ART. 2. After this has been accomplished, all select citizens of every town shall convene in a big assembly and elect by majority vote the town mayor and the head of every barrio in the town. Those to be elected, also by majority vote, must at least be 21 years of age, who have proven their love for the independence of the country.

ART. 3. The Assembly shall elect three officials: One, of Police and Public Order; another, of Justice and Civil Registry, and another, of Revenues and Property.

The Police official shall help the town mayor in preserving peace and order.

The official of Justice and Civil Registry shall help the town mayor in settling disputes, and shall also keep a registry of births, deaths, and marriages.

The official of Revenues and Property shall help the town mayor in the collection of contributions and taxes, and keep a registry of large cattle, houses, and lands, and promote the economic condition of the people.

*Translated from Tagalog by the author.
ART. 4. The town mayor, with the heads of barrios, and the above-
mentioned officials, shall constitute the Popular Assembly which shall 
take charge of the particular interests of the town.

Every town head shall be the vice-president of the Assembly and the 
oficial of Justice and Civil Registry shall act as the secretary.

Each barrio chief shall be the representative of the town mayor who 
shall exercise the duties in their respective jurisdictions.

ART. 5. All the several town mayors shall constitute the Provincial 
Assembly and shall elect by majority vote the Governor of the Province 
and three councilors for the three positions above-mentioned.

The Governor of the province, the President, the Mayor of the 
provincial capital as vice-president, and the three councilors shall constitute the Provincial Council which shall execute all the laws of the Gov-
ernment in the province and shall propose to the Government those meas-
ures which should be adopted for the general welfare of the province.

ART. 6. The said officials shall elect by majority vote three repre-
sentatives each for Manila and Cavite; two for each regular province; and 
one for each of the other provinces and politico-military command posts 
of the Archipelago.

Said Representatives shall take charge of the general interests of 
their respective provinces and shall constitute the Revolutionary Congress 
which shall propose to this Dictatorial Government the necessary meas-
ures concerning the preservation of internal peace and order, and shall 
be heard in all matters of transcendent importance which admit of 
delay in the resolution thereof.

ART. 7. The persons elected for any position in the manner pres-
ccribed in the preceding articles shall not assume office without previous 
formal confirmation by the Government.

The Representatives shall be accredited by the exhibition of these 
formal confirmations.

ART. 8. The military chiefs appointed by this Government from 
each province shall not intervene in the administration of this Govern-
ment, limiting themselves to requesting the needed help from the chiefs 
of provinces and towns which shall not be denied in cases of real need.

However, in case of actual threat or occupation by the enemy of the 
province or portion thereof, the superior military chief may assume all 
the powers of the provincial Governor until the danger has disappeared.

ART. 9. The Government shall appoint for each province, a Com-
mmissioner with special duty to establish therein an organization which 
shall implement the provisions of this Decree and other orders which 
this Government may issue from time to time. The military chiefs which 
freed the towns from Spanish rule are commissioners by right.
Said Commissioners shall preside the opening sessions of the provincial and town assemblies.

ART. 10. Upon the due organization of the assemblies as provided for in this Decree, all previous designations for civil positions heretofore made shall be without effect, and all orders in conflict hereto are hereby repealed.

GIVEN AT CAVITE, this 18th day of June 1898.

—EMILIO AGUINALDO