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# The Academic Calendar in the Philippines

A Historical Review

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# The Beginning of Formal Education

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The primary schools were open throughout the year except during the months of planting and harvesting.

In the months of April, May, and June, afternoon classes were closed and only morning sessions were held. In some provinces, the months of April and May were full vacation.

# Educational Decree of 1863

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“The shorter vacation period shall extend from Christmas eve to Twelfth–night, during the three carnival days (the three days preceding Lent), and from Holy Wednesday until Easter. During said vacations, the resident scholars shall remain in the institution.

The longer vacations shall last one and one-half months, and shall be during the time of the greatest heat. The resident scholars may pass to the bosom of their families for the period of the longer vacations. The scholars may go once a month to the house of their parents or guardian.”

# Bureau of Public Instruction

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Sixth Annual Report of the Director of Education (1906)

“October is the best month for school attendance but the month of March is selected for statistics herein given as the last (month) of the school year....”

# Education Act of 1940

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stated that the academic school calendar “shall be so adjusted that the school vacations would coincide as much as possible with the working seasons of the peoples.”

# Manila Times

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1963

May 8, 1963

## School schedule approved

President Macapagal and his cabinet last night approved a revised school schedule under which classes in all public and private schools will open on July 1 this year.

This decision was reached after Budget Commissioner Faustino Sy-Changco assured the cabinet that appropriations for all public schools will be available at the opening of the school year.

### Abolish red tape

Sy-Changco said that it was the first time that appropriations for all schools were included in the regular budget.

At the meeting, the cabinet also:

1. Discussed the problem of red tape in the government which the President said was "a terrible bottleneck" in the implementation of the government program.

2. Heard the report of Adevos, as chairman of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Committee, that more than P62 million worth of goods was confiscated during the anti-smuggling drive last year.

After Adevos finished his report, the President instructed Defense Secretary

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## School schedule approved

From page 1  
Macario Peralta to look into the possibility of using hydrofoil boats in the anti-smuggling campaign

### School schedules

The revised school plan calls for a staggered schedule over three years beginning this year to achieve a September to June school year. The present June to March schedule was adopted by American education officials in 1904 and has been followed since then.

Under department order issued by Education Secretary Alejandro R. Roces, the opening date of school will be: for school year 1963-64, July 1; 1964-65, Aug. 3, and 1965-66, Sept. 6.

Secretary Roces said that a study committee found that changing the opening date of schools from June to September would mean great benefits and advantages to the majority of the people.

He said that three conclusions were reached by the study committee:

### Advantages cited

1. That by opening the schools in September, the country will have a health-

### Advantages cited

1. That by opening the schools in September, the country will have a healthier student population as borne out by statistics of the department of health and the weather bureau. Under the old schedule school children have to go to school just when the rainy season is beginning.

2. The country will be more productive economically, as shown by statistics of the department of agriculture and natural resources. The planting of rice and secondary crops such as corn takes place mostly in June, July, and August.

5. In point of budgetary and accounting requirements, opening schools in September will be advantageous because it will simplify and facilitate the release of funds needed for the operation of classes in public schools.

At the cabinet meeting last night, Adevos said that of the P62 million worth of goods confiscated in the anti-smuggling drive, P39,476,762.63 was in blue seal cigarettes. The rest consisted of other contraband and goods.

Adevos said he hoped that there would be better coordination among the government agencies engaged in the anti-smuggling drive. He informed the cabinet of the availability of P3.5 million in equipment to be used in the anti-smuggling campaign.

# The benefits of the “Roces Plan”

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1. That by opening the schools in September, the country would have a healthier student population as borne out by statistics of the Department of Health and the Weather Bureau. Under the old schedule, school children had to go to school just when the rainy season was beginning.
2. The country would be more productive economically, as shown by statistics of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The planting of rice and secondary crops such as corn took place mostly in June, July, and August.
3. In point of budgetary and accounting requirements, opening schools in September would be advantageous because it would simplify and facilitate the release of funds needed for the operation of classes in public schools.

Forecast: Cloudy, scattered showers.  
Tide: High — 6:00 a.m., 3.3 ft.  
Low — 4:19 p.m., 4 ft.  
Temp. 'ance yesterday: 88.9-72  
Humidity maximum: 90-64.  
Rainfall: M.L.A. — 1.87 inches.  
Port Area — 46 inch  
(Full weather report—Pink Page 3)

VOL. 106, NO. 71

# MANILA BULLETIN

MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 1964

## OLD SCHOOL CALENDAR RESTORED

### HE VEToes TELECOM AND ARMY BILLS

#### Opening Reset Back To Either June Or July

President Macapagal signed in Tokyo yesterday a controversial bill restoring the old school calendar and vetoed two equally controversial measures—the telecommunications bill and the armed forces retirement bill.

Malacañang said the Chief Executive also vetoed about 30 other measures as he met his deadline of Saturday midnight to act on the more than 500 bills passed by congress during the regular session.

In approving the school calendar bill, outlined by Senator Maria Kalaw Katigbak, the President said he could not ignore the "categorical legislative policy" expressed through the passage of the bill.

#### Not This Year

The new law would allow the new school calendar promulgated by Secretary of Education Alejandro Roces to go into effect this year.

But the Katigbak law would have the school year start on any day between June 1 and July 31 next calendar year. This would give schoolchildren and teachers about a month or two for their summer vacation.

#### September Opening

Under the Roces calendar, the school would open on the first week of next August and close in May. If the Katigbak bill had not been signed into law by the President, the school term in 1965 and in succeeding years would have started in September.

When reached last night, Senator Katigbak said the exact date of the school opening next school year would be determined by the secretary of education, who was empowered by the administrative code to

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### SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

do so. **Limit Dates**  
"All we did was to limit him on the dates from which he could choose the school opening," she said.

The Roces calendar was objected to because schools would be open during the hottest months of the year. On the other hand, proponents of the new school calendar said it avoided the rainiest months of the year and, therefore, was good for the health of the pupils, and would enable them to help their parents during the planting season.

#### Peril On Democracy

The more controversial armed forces retirement bill was vetoed by the President, Malacañang said, because of the "peril it poses on the stability and security of our democracy."

The bill would have extended the service of graduates of the Philippine Military Academy by four years without extending the same benefit to non-military school graduates or "integrees."

The President said the bill would "radically" affect the status and tenure of officers in the armed forces, particularly those

in the top echelons.

#### Upset Roster

"Such a consequence would not be in the interest of sound and stable democracy," the President said. "Indeed, it would tend to undermine our democratic system of government; for if the status and tenure of officers can be so easily changed by legislation, it will not be difficult to see that any clique of officers may be tempted to align itself with political groups to achieve that purpose and thereby upset the roster or table of organization of the armed forces of the Philippines."

He also said there was no basis to the fear that the experienced and trained officers who were retired at the relatively young ages of from 47 to 52 years would be "lost to the country."

#### Great Demand

On the contrary, the President pointed out, private enterprise would be more than willing to absorb the retiring officers as top executives.

He added that at this time when the administration was prosecuting a development program based on private enterprise, there was a great demand for managers with the training and experience of the military retirees.

Besides, the President noted, retired officers were subject to call to active military duty any time the President deemed their services were required by the government.

#### Infringement

The other controversial bill, the telecommunications bill, was also vetoed by the President on the ground that if made into law, it would be an infringement on the freedom of the press and against the principle of free enterprise.

The bill would, among other things, allow the telecommunications director to prohibit the transmission of messages critical of the government.

#### Tobacco, M.V.O. Bills

The other important bills approved by the President included a bill authored by Rep. Floro Crisologo (Ilocos Sur) designed to promote the Virginia leaf tobacco industry in the Ilocos, and a bill converting the Motor Vehicles office into the Land Transportation commission.

The tobacco bill would benefit about seven million Ilocanos dependent on the tobacco industry. Crisologo and M.V.O. Administrator Apolinario Puno had flown to Tokyo to plead for their respective measures.

The President, according to Malacañang, acted on all the bills approved by congress. He either signed them into law or vetoed them, allowing none to automatically lapse into law.

June 22, 1964



# Vacation Months

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- ⊕ It was more important to identify when schools would be closed for vacation than when classes should open
- ⊕ Considerations for vacation months: economic activities, cultural practices, and comfort of the students in school