



National
Historical
Commission of the
Philippines

2 March 2022

MR. JEFFREY DESIPOLO
masikhayjeffrey@gmail.com

Dear **Mr. Desipolo**,

Greetings from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)!

Thank you for your request dated 28 February 2022 through Executive Order No. 2 (s.2016) on Freedom of Information in the Executive Branch, requesting clarifications on the hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast together with the flags of other countries and the partial playing of the National Anthem as background music.

We wish to inform you that Republic Act No. 8491 or the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines enjoins the hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast “as a sign of mourning” and in sympathy or condolence with the other country. Notwithstanding that the National Flag may be displayed at half-mast during “calamities or grave adversity of national and *international* solemnity [*italics ours*].”

Regarding the partial playing of the National Anthem as background music, the NHCP sees it as entertainment. Section 38 of R.A. 8491 states that the National Anthem “shall not be played and sung for mere recreation, amusement or entertainment purposes” except for international and local competitions, signing off and signing on of radio and television stations, before the initial and last screening of films and theater performances, and others.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

CARMINDA R. AREVALO
Officer-in-Charge,
Office of the Executive Director