

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2632



Introduced by Honorable Roque R. Ablan, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Mahmoud A. M. Asfour, with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Under Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Congress is empowered to grant, in accordance with law, Philippine citizenship to foreigners who have rendered outstanding service to the country and the people.

Mr. Mahmoud A. M. Asfour who came to the Philippines from Riyadh in 1984, has been a resident of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya for seventeen years, during which he has married a Filipina – the former Zenaida C. Baniaga, and reared three children namely, Abdallah, 16 years old, Abdel Hakim, 14 years old and Abeer, 6 years old, all Filipino citizens. He preferred to live in the country with his family because of his desire that his children imbibe the rural Filipino culture, and being a strong advocate of Dr. Jose Rizal's values and teachings, Mr. Asfour has conformed himself and his family with the Filipino way of life filled with compassion, kindness and integrity,

He has demonstrated unsolicited generosity and unselfish service to various groups in terms of civic and community based projects such as medical assistance for major and minor operations for indigents in Casat and its neighboring barangays and other places in Nueva Vizcaya, free tuition fees and monthly allowances for deserving pupils and students, renovation and painting of various churches, book donations, renovation of elementary school buildings including amenities, placement jobs for overseas workers and assistance for the release of some overseas workers jailed in Saudi Arabia.

His support to various programs includes but is not limited to economic, medical, athletic, religious, educational, livelihood, civic and social undertakings, and for such purpose, he has to use personal and family resources to the tune of millions of pesos annually.

He has shown inspiring and unwavering faith in the greatness of the Filipino and has chosen to identify himself fully with the country by honorably and vigorously promoting a better living standard for the people in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, where he gave support to a government program called "Assistance Council for Vizcayano Overseas Workers," cash

[Signature]

Incentives to honor students and deserving teachers, building of livelihood centers on lots he has donated, installation of street lights, water system and even monthly payments of electricity bills in his Barangay. His livelihood projects include training program for food processing, cosmetics and beauty training, building a beauty parlor and food processing hall and supplying the project with machines, materials and tools.

He has shown exemplary dedication, concern and deep appreciation for the Filipinos when in 1991 during the Gulf War, he helped more than a thousand overseas Filipino workers and their families who fled from Kuwait to Riyadh by accommodating them in his house for one to three months, providing them every possible assistance in the form of food, medical services and even airline tickets for the least fortunate Filipinos to return to their home safely.

He has initiated the construction of a Rizal shrine which is easily the biggest and tallest in Nueva Vizcaya and perhaps one of the biggest, if not the biggest in the whole country. The shrine is housed in a complex which has provisions for a children's playground, livelihood and tourist facilities, conference lunge and other amenities. The proposed shrine is on top of a mountain which has a panoramic view of the beautiful scenery of the municipality of Bayombong.

Various individuals, civic groups and local and provincial government officials in Nueva Vizcaya, such as the governor Rodolfo Q. Agbayani, the vice governor, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma and the municipal mayor and members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Bayombong, among others, have manifested their strong support and endorsement to the grant to Mr Asfour of Philippine citizenship.

The Nueva Vizcaya Sangguniang Panlalawigan through Resolution numbered 2001-1126 dated June 8, 2001 has adopted Mr. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour a son of Nueva Vizcaya as a fitting recognition of the exemplary services he has rendered and the outstanding contributions he has given to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya. Moreover, he was conferred the Third Degree as Knight Commander of the Knights of Rizal for his devotion to and willingness to propagate the noble teaching and ideals of Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

Thus, in recognition of his valuable services to the Philippines, especially to the Overseas Filipino Workers and to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, it is the sense of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines to grant him Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.


ROQUE R. ABLAN, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2632

Introduced by Honorable Roque R. Ablan, Jr.

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFOUR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,

