

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4876**

Introduced by The Honorable JUAN C. PONCE ENRILE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The debate on whether to bury former President Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani is very divisive for the nation under pressure from global price escalations to the changes that are happening or about to happen in certain critical regions of the world that supply oil to the various nation-states.

Such global price escalation affects the food supply chain and in a country where poverty is alarming, government should be able to focus on more important things to alleviate the skyrocketing price of basic commodities, job generation and expansion of the economy as well as battling corruption that retard our gains as a nation.

Republic Act No. 298 of 1948, creating a five-member Board of National Pantheon, on the construction of a National Pantheon for Presidents, National Heroes and Patriots could have been the closure to the debate if only the law, which remains in our statutes book, is implemented. But the debate has been allowed to fester, opening old wounds.

Presidential Proclamation No. 208 was issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos on May 28, 1967, to reserve an area of 142 hectares from the Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation.

Under AFP Regulations G 161-373, with the subject "Allocation of Cemetery plots at the LNMB," issued on 9 April 1986 by GHQ under then AFP Chief of Staff General Fidel V. Ramos, and then signed by President Corazon C. Aquino, states exactly who are entitled to be interred at the Libingan. It clearly states that "pursuant to the aforecited AFP Regulations, republished on 11 Sept. 2000 as AFP Regulations G 161-375," that there are 10 categories of deceased persons entitled to be buried at the LNMB: 1. Medal of Valor awardees; 2. Presidents or Commanders-in-Chief, AFP; 3. Secretaries of National Defense; 4. Chiefs of Staff, AFP; 5. General/Flag Officers of the AFP; 6. Active and retired military personnel of the AFP; 7. Former AFP members who laterally entered/joined the PNP and the PCG; 8. Veterans of Philippine Revolution of 1896, WWI, WWII and recognized guerrillas; 9. Government dignitaries, statesmen, National Artists and other deceased persons whose interment or re-interment has been approved by the Commander-in-Chief, Congress or the Secretary of National Defense; and 10. Presidents, Secretaries of

National Defense, widows of former Presidents, Secretaries of National Defense and Chiefs of Staff.

The measure sets aside 25% of the total land area in the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) for the Libingan ng mga Pangulo (LNMP) and the remaining 75% shall constitute the LNMB. The setting aside of space for the LNMP will have a prospective effect. As such, upon the passage of this bill, the present custodian of the LNMB is hereby directed to measure and set aside the space, as provided by the bill, for the use of former presidents of the Republic. The present custodian of LNMB shall likewise be the custodian of the LNMP.

Passage of this measure is earnestly requested.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JUAN C. PONCE ENRILE, JR.

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House Bill No. **4876**

Introduced by The Honorable JUAN C. PONCE ENRILE, JR.

AN ACT
SETTING ASIDE TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LAND AREA
OF THE LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI TO CONSTITUTE THE LIBINGAN
NG MGA PANGULO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known and cited as the “*Libingan ng Pangulo Act of 2011.*”

SEC. 2. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total land area of the Libingan ng mga Bayani is hereby set aside for the development of the Libingan ng mga Pangulo.

SEC. 3. The Libingan ng mga Pangulo shall be under the administration and maintenance of the Grave Service Unit of the Philippine Army Support, Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees or executive issuances and any rules and regulations or any part thereof which may be inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modifies accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,