Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6705

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The passage of Republic Act No. 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Re-Acquisition Act of 2003 gave way for Filipinos abroad, natural-born or those naturalized in the country where they reside, to retain and re-acquire their Filipino citizenship subject to certain conditions.

While dual citizens are given the right to vote in Philippine elections under existing laws, those seeking public office or appointment to public office are given a disincentive under R.A. 9225 by "requiring them to make a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship before any public officer authorized to administer an oath." (Section 5) This makes it unattractive for those interested and to many Filipinos abroad. To them, it is irrelevant and out of context and makes a double standard, clearly discriminating against Filipinos living abroad even as their hard earned money are remitted back to the Philippines and helps sustain the national economy.

It also cuts off long time proven linkages with several Filipino organizations abroad who continue to bring home exemplary knowledge, special skills and huge donations and different kinds of assistance especially medical missions who serve a great number of indigent Filipino communities back home.

As catalysts of development in the Philippines, it would be a disservice to our *kababayans* abroad if they are not accorded the same rights as those staying the country. While present laws allow them to exercise their right to vote and make their voice heard in Philippine elections, it is only fair if they are given the chance to participate in local elections and be appointed to public office without jeopardizing the citizenship they have acquired from their host country.

In view of the foregoing, we, therefore, urge our colleagues to ensure the expeditious passage of this bill into law.

DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6705

Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003."

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

SECTION 1. Section of 5 of Republic Act No. 9225 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. *Civil and Political Rights and Liabilities*. – Those who retain or re-acquire.....under the following conditions:

(1) XXX...

(2) Those seeking elective public office in the Philippines shall meet the qualification for holding such public office as required by the Constitution and existing laws **[**and,**]** at the time of the filing of the certificate of candidacy**[**, make a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship before any public officer authorized to administer an oath**]**;

(3) Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and swear to an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office**[**: *Provided*, that they renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took their oath**]**;

(4) XXX...

(5) XXX...

(a) XXX...

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,