

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1803**



Introduced by Representatives
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO and DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The passage of *Republic Act No. 9225* or the *Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003* paved the way for Filipinos abroad to retain and reacquire their Filipino citizenship subject to certain conditions laid down by the law.

Unfortunately, RA 9225 only grants the privilege of retention and reacquisition of Filipino citizenship to former natural-born citizens who subsequently acquired foreign citizenship.

Considering that no less than the Constitution itself limits the distinction between natural-born and naturalized citizens only on the matter of holding specific constitutional offices, the undersigned are of the view that the law should not create any additional distinctions between natural-born and naturalized Filipinos, especially when it comes to retention and reacquisition of Filipino citizenship.

The undersigned consider it undue discrimination not to accord our former naturalized compatriots the privilege that RA 9225 granted to former natural-born Filipinos who also acquired foreign citizenship abroad.

Natural-born status is only acquired by chance due to the undetermined circumstance of our own births. On the other hand, naturalized citizenship is acquired by choice. There is no reason why we should deprive naturalized Filipinos who chose to be such the chance to retain and/or reacquire their Filipino citizenship the same way natural-born citizens do under RA 9225.

Most of our naturalized Filipinos derived their Philippine citizenship when they were still minors upon their parents being granted Philippine

citizenship by judicial decree or other legal processes. Some of them have gone abroad and acquired foreign citizenship just like many of our former natural-born citizens. They have become successful in their respective careers and many would like to come back and help develop the country where they were once called Filipinos. The only constraint that remains now and the obstacle hindering their interest of contributing to our country's political and economic development is the discriminatory treatment accorded by *Republic Act No. 9225*.

In view of the foregoing, we therefore urge our colleagues in this august body to join us in having this measure passed into law.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Camarines Sur

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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1803

Introduced by Representatives
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO and DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO

**AN ACT GRANTING FORMER NATURALIZED CITIZENS THE
PRIVILEGE GRANTED TO FORMER NATURAL-BORN CITIZENS BY
SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225 OR 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. RETENTION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP BY FORMER
NATURAL-BORN OR NATURALIZED CITIZENS - Section 3 of Republic Act No.
9225 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Retention of Philippine Citizenship - Any provision of
law to the contrary notwithstanding, natural-born or naturalized
Filipino citizens who, by reason of their subsequent naturalization
as citizens of a foreign country, are hereby deemed to have re-
acquired Philippine citizenship upon taking the following oath of
allegiance to the Republic:

*I _____, solemnly swear (or affirm) that I
will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic
of the Philippines and obey the laws and legal orders
promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the
Philippines; and I hereby declare that I recognize and
accept the supreme authority of the Philippines and
will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto; and
that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily
without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.*

"Natural-born or naturalized citizens of the Philippines who, after the effectivity of this Act, become citizens of a foreign country shall retain their Philippine citizenship upon taking the aforesaid oath."

SEC. 2. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, any other section or provision not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 3. REPEALING CLAUSE - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,