

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



House Bill No. **5070**

Introduced by HON. ALETA C. SUAREZ

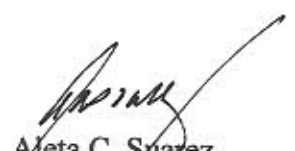
EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to **ARTICLE XVII**, Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution:

The Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, call a constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its Members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention.

Our present Constitution is almost three decades old. Since the time it was passed, economic and political winds have changed which makes some of its provisions anachronistic or even outright economically not viable. One Constitutional issue now being questioned is the viability of present economic provisions, which experts claim have been limiting our opportunities to realize our potential as an economic powerhouse. A House Resolution authored by Speaker Sonny Belmonte is pending, seeking to review these provisions. Notice that our mining industry is still on hold and has stagnated in the last four years due to the absence of a clear and consistent policy due to constitutional questions. Another issue that demands a review vis-a-vis the National Charter is the "Bangsa Moro Law", which several constitutional experts and political analysts have already noted to have several provisions that may be in contravention to those of the 1987 Constitution.

Instead of addressing the abovementioned issues piecemeal, we should take advantage of the call of the times to update the Constitution in a holistic and comprehensive manner. In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


Aleta C. Suarez
Representative
3rd District, Quezon Province

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1 AN ACT CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
2 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

3 Section 1. *Composition.* The Constitutional Convention shall be composed of members
4 who shall be elected from every legislative district of the Philippines.

5 Section 2. *Election of Delegates.* The election of delegates to the Convention shall be
6 held on the second Monday of May 2016.

7 Section 3. *Who May Convene.* The Chairman of the Comelec, with the concurrence of the
8 Secretary General of the House of Representatives and the Senate Secretary, shall initially take
9 charge of all arrangements for the convening of the Constitutional Convention.

10 Section 4. *Commencement of Convention.* The Convention shall commence at the Session
11 Hall of the House of Representatives on the first Monday of July following the election of the
12 delegates.

13 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall preside at the opening until a Presiding
14 Officer is elected by the Convention among its delegates. The Convention shall be deemed
15 organized upon the election of the Convention President and Presiding Officer, which shall be
16 the first order of business.

17 Section 5. *Convention Report.* The Convention shall submit its report to the President and
18 the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, and the Commission on Elections within 30 days
19 from its completion of the amendments or revision of the Constitution.

1 Section 6. *Ratification.* The amendments to, or revision of, the Consitution as proposed
2 by the Convention shall be valid when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite
3 which shall be held simultaneously with the May 2019 National elections.

4 Section 7. *Appropriation.* The amount needed to initially implement the provisions of this
5 Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums
6 as may be needed for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General
7 Appropriations Act.

8 Section 8. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15 days) after its complete
9 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved