

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5867**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Geographical renaming is the changing of the name of a geographical feature or area ranging from the uncontroversial change of a street name to a highly disputed change of the name of a country. A change might see a completely different name being adopted or might only be a slight change in spelling.

For the purpose of this Act, the reason for renaming our country is to throw away the vestiges of colonialism, to establish our national identity, and to define how our nation, our people and our national language will be addressed internationally. Ideally, the name of a country should define not only its land, but also its people and patrimony. In addition, the new name must also reflect our history, culture, society, and national sentiments.

Many nations who were formally under colonial yoke have reverted back to their former pre-colonized name as it gives them a sense of national pride and identity as a free people. By the same token, for the most part of our history, our ancestors have existed isolated and separate from each other in their own kingdoms, rajahnets and sultanets. Then, various colonizers came over which muddled our identity as a people and nation. Filipenas, Filipinas, Pilipinas, Philippines – which of these is the correct name for our country? It is high time for us to have a name which befits us and is universal to all.

It is therefore imperative for Congress to create a Geographic Renaming Commission to comprehensively study what appropriate new name shall we call our nation.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Act is earnestly sought.


HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5867**

Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

AN ACT
CONSTITUTING A GEOGRAPHIC RENAMING
COMMISSION TO RENAME OUR COUNTRY

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Organization.***- The Geographic Renaming Commission, hereinafter
2 referred to as the "Commission" is hereby constituted in order to study the possibility and the
3 feasibility of renaming our country, which will appropriately address and define us as a people
4 and nation.

5
6 **SEC. 2. *Composition.***- The Commission shall be composed of three (3) Commissioners,
7 to wit: the commissioners of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA),
8 National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and the Komisyon ng Wikang
9 Filipino (KWF).

10
11 **SEC. 3. *Mandate.*** It shall be the mandate of the Commission to study and recommend
12 thenceforth what the new name of the country shall be.

13
14 **SEC. 4. *Secretariat and Technical Committee.***- The Commission shall organize its
15 Secretariat which shall provide administrative and technical support to the Commission. The
16 Commission and its Secretariat shall hold office in such venue as the Commission may deem
17 appropriate.

1 The Commission is hereby authorized to create technical committees and designate
2 members thereof, and may engage the assistance of experts and professional advisors, subject to
3 government rules and regulations.

4
5 **SEC. 5. *Term of Office.***- The Commission shall complete its work not later than one (1)
6 year from the date of approval of this Act, and shall submit to the President of the Philippines a
7 report of the work undertaken by it together with its corresponding recommendations.

8
9 **SEC. 6. *Termination.*** – Upon completion of its work and the submission of its report not
10 later than one (1) year from the date of the approval of this Act, the Commission shall cease to
11 exist and the services of the Commissioners and members of the Secretariat and Technical
12 Committee shall terminate.

13
14 **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.***- The Commission shall be funded with an initial allocation of
15 Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act.

16
17 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All previous issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this
18 order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19
20 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** This order shall take effect upon its publication in the Official
21 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,