

NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **8905**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Grace Tan To, a dedicated School Director of Oro Christian Grace School, by direct act of Congress in recognition of her exemplary work and commitment in serving Filipino youth in the education sector. She also possesses all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications provided under Commonwealth Act No. 473, particularly Section 2, which states that:

“Section 2. Qualifications. — Subject to section four of this Act, any person having the following qualifications may become a citizen of the Philippines by naturalization:

First. He must be not less than twenty-one years of age on the day of the hearing of the petition;

Second. He must have resided in the Philippines for a continuous period of not less than ten years;

Third. He must be of good moral character and believes in the principles underlying the Philippine Constitution, and must have conducted himself in a proper and irreproachable manner during the entire period of his residence in the Philippines in his relation with the constituted government as well as with the community in which he is living.

Fourth. He must own real estate in the Philippines worth not less than five thousand pesos, Philippine currency, or must have some known lucrative trade, profession, or lawful occupation;

Fifth. He must be able to speak and write English or Spanish and any one of the principal Philippine languages; and

Sixth. He must have enrolled his minor children of school age, in any of the public schools or private schools recognized by the Office of Private Education of the Philippines, where the Philippine history, government and civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school curriculum, during the entire period of the residence in the Philippines required of him prior to the hearing of his petition for naturalization as Philippine citizen.”

Born in the Philippines, Grace Tan To is fifty-one (51) years of age. She has been living in the Philippines since she was born, and been serving in Cagayan de Oro for 20 (twenty) years.

Grace Tan To had served as a School Principal and currently as School Director of Oro Christian Grace School, furthermore, she is also an Associate Pastor of Cagayan Gospel Church, serving for a total of 21 years in educational leadership and pastoral ministry.

Under her leadership, in the last 20 years, the school and church have initiated and engaged in the following community service, to wit: (a) Calamity assistance to Barangay Macasandig and other flood-prone barangays since Typhoon Sendong in 2011 up to the present; (b) Periodic Community Outreach to Macasandig Elementary School through book donations, club training, teacher support, computer printer donations, Christmas Drive; (c) Prison ministry at Lumbia Jail: Christian values teaching; and (d) Mission works in Cagayan de Oro City and within Region 10.

Moreover, besides contributing to nation building by teaching and molding children and youth into becoming responsible and productive citizens who will also serve God, our country and their fellowmen, Grace Tan To has been a law-abiding citizen and has not committed any acts in violation of Philippine laws.

Having assimilated to Filipino community since birth, Grace Tan To speaks and writes eloquent English, Tagalog, and Bisaya (Cebuano). She has also acquired Filipino customs and traits, was schooled in Philippine private schools in Preschool, Elementary, High School, and College, and is knowledgeable in Philippine history, government, and civics.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly requested.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO GRACE TAN TO

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

SECTION 1. Grace Tan To is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto, under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Grace Tan To shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Grace Tan To who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,