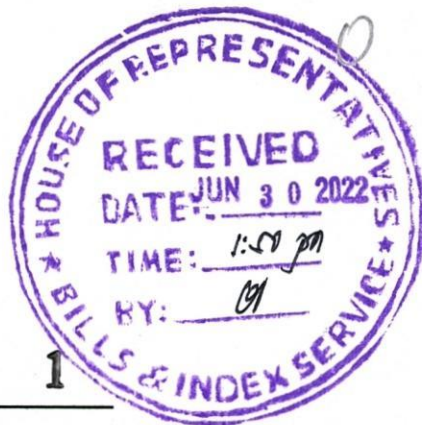




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES NO. _____



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

**A RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES
TO CONVENE THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, NINETEENTH
CONGRESS, INTO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO
SECTION 7, ARTICLE VI ON LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT; SECTION 4, ARTICLE VII ON
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT; AND SECTION 8, ARTICLE X ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF
THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution states:

"Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by:

- a) The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members; or*
- b) A constitutional convention."*

WHEREAS, Section 7, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for a term of three years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election.

No member of the House of Representatives shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected."

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article VII, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The President and the Vice-President shall be elected by direct vote of the people for a term of six years which shall begin at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following the day of election and shall end at noon of the same date, six years thereafter. The President shall not be eligible for any re-election. No person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time.

No Vice-President shall serve for more than two successive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of the service for the full term for which he was elected."

WHEREAS, Section 8, Article X of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The term of office of elective local officials, except barangay officials, which shall be determined by law, shall be three years and no such official shall serve for more than three consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected.”

WHEREAS, it has been thirty-five years (35) since the 1987 Constitution was ratified by our People, twelve (12) Congresses, seven (7) Presidencies, and twelve (12) Local Government elections not to mention few special elections since then;

WHEREAS, the clear majority mandate from the Filipino people of our new President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Romualdez Marcos, Jr. of Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP) who garnered thirty one million six hundred twenty nine thousand seven hundred eighty three (31,629,783) votes representing 58.77% of total votes cast from our electorate and that of his running mate Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio who obtained thirty two million two hundred eight thousand four hundred seventeen (32,208,417) votes representing 61.53% of the votes cast from our electorate would be the green light from our citizenry to proceed to the discussion on Charter Change;

WHEREAS, even Former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte agrees that the Constitution must be amended accordingly with the Former Vice President Maria Leonora Robredo consenting that debates may be had on Charter Change;

WHEREAS, a need now arises to modify the terms of office of some elected officials: the President, Vice-President, Members of the House of Representatives both District Representatives and Party-list Representatives, and Local Elective Officials except Senators and Barangay Elective Officials through the most expeditious, judicious, and inexpensive way via the Constituent Assembly pursuant to Paragraph 1, Section 1, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution which states “The Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members” as compared to that other mode of electing members to the Constitutional Convention with an additional estimated cost of Eight (8) Billion Pesos, more or less, to government;

WHEREAS, the three-year term for members of the House of Representatives, as the past experiences would show, is a very short term. On the first six (6) months of their term, the Members would organize the House of Representatives electing Officials, Chairmen and Members of the House Committees and other Offices like the Commission on Appointments and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal then focus on the Budget Bill. The third year, almost half of the year would be devoted on their re-elections or election activities;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives’ function is not limited to legislation and investigations in aid of legislation only, it includes proposing amendments to the Constitution via Constituent Assembly, Impeachment proceedings, Oversight functions and reviewing some acts of the Executive like the Declaration of Martial Law, Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, Declaration of War, among others plus the emergency response to extraordinary calamities like the COVID- pandemic which created havoc on our health and economy resulting to more than 12 trillion-peso debt plus the effects both of political and economic, of the Russia versus Ukraine war causing skyrocketing prices of fuel and other commodities;

WHEREAS, with the giganteum tasks given to the Members of House of Representatives, a need arises to increase their term of office from three years to five years but limiting them to only two consecutive five-year terms in office;

WHEREAS, seven (7) Presidencies including the former President Corazon Aquino’s government have been established since the 1987 Constitution having a six-year term of office. The six-year term to implement long term programs and policies appears to be insufficient. We are now in our road to recovery having more than 12 trillion-peso national debt due to the COVID-19 pandemic and most recently the high prices of fuel due to the Russia-Ukraine war. A long term solution is wanting, hence, longer term policy on good and competent leadership should be put to place;

WHEREAS, it is hereby proposed that the term of office of the President shall be five years with a re-election to another five-year term, a maximum of a ten-year term. Thereafter, the President shall be prohibited to be a candidate to any elective post;

WHEREAS, the Vice-President shall have a five-year term and maybe re-elected for another five-year term, a maximum term for two consecutive five-year terms. Further, in every Presidential election, a vote for the President shall be a vote for the Vice-President provided that both belong to the same Political Party. This is to encourage strong party system;

WHEREAS, as further proposed, any person who succeeds either as President or Vice President shall be qualified for one (1) election only for the same office;

WHEREAS, the Local Governments' function as an Executive and Legislative like the Congress and the President, local elective officials might have long term policies and programs pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991 and note mentioning the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Law. The Local Government Units are the frontiers of social services to our citizens, having governmental and proprietary functions. Likewise, the three-year term is not enough to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing increase of fuel prices due to the Russia and Ukraine war;

WHEREAS, it is proposed that the three-year term of elected local officials except the Barangay elected officials be increased from a three-year term to a five-year term subject to the limit of two consecutive five-year terms;

WHEREAS, it is proposed as transitory provisions to wit:

- 1.) Members of the House of Representatives on their last and final term shall be prohibited to be candidates as Representatives to the House of Representatives in the next immediate elections upon ratification of these amendments. Provided, incumbent Representatives or Congressmen on their first and second terms shall be eligible to be candidates as Representatives or Congressmen in the next immediate elections upon ratification of these amendments, provided further, it will be considered as their last terms if they are voted in office.
- 2.) The incumbent and past Presidents of the Philippines shall be ineligible to be a candidate again as President and to other elective positions.
- 3.) All Local Elective Officials except Barangay Elective Officials on their third and last term shall be prohibited to be a candidate to the same position after these amendments are ratified. Provided that these Local Elective Officials in their first or second term shall be eligible to be a candidate of the same position after such ratification, provided further, it will be their last and final terms if they are voted in office.

WHEREFORE RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Congress of the Philippines adopts this Resolution of Both Houses to convene as a Constituent Assembly pursuant to Paragraph 1, Section 1, Article XVII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and propose the following amendments, to wit:

- 1.) Article VI Section 7 on Legislative Department

*"The Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for a term of **FIVE** [three] years which shall begin, unless otherwise provided by law, at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following their election.*

*No member of the House of Representatives shall serve for more than **TWO** [three] consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected."*

2.) Article VII Section 4 on Executive Department

*"The President and the Vice-President shall be elected by direct vote of the people for a term of **FIVE** years **PROVIDED, THAT A VOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE A VOTE FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENT BELONGING TO THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY** which shall begin at noon on the thirtieth day of June next following the day of election and shall end at noon of the same date, **FIVE** years thereafter. **NO PRESIDENT SHALL SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS. VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF THE OFFICE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTERRUPTION IN THE CONTINUITY OF THE SERVICE FOR THE FULL TERM WHICH HE WAS ELECTED, THEREAFTER, THE PRESIDENT SHALL BE INELIGIBLE TO BE A CANDIDATE TO ANY ELECTIVE POSITION.** [The President shall [not] be eligible for any re-election. No person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time.]*

No Vice-President shall serve for more than two successive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of the service for the full term for which he was elected."

ANY PERSON WHO HAS SUCCEEDED AS PRESIDENT OR VICE-PRESIDENT SHALL ONLY BE QUALIFIED FOR ONE (1) ELECTION TO THE SAME OFFICE AT ANYTIME.

3.) Article X Section 8 on Local Government

*"The term of office of elective local officials, except barangay officials, which shall be determined by law, shall be **FIVE** [three] years and no such official shall serve for more than **TWO** [three] consecutive terms. Voluntary renunciation of the office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of his service for the full term for which he was elected."*

4.) Transitory Provisions

- a) Members of the House of Representatives on their last and final term shall be prohibited to be candidates as Representatives to the House of Representatives in the next immediate elections upon ratification of these amendments. Provided, incumbent Representatives or Congressmen on their first and second terms shall be eligible to be candidates as Representatives or Congressmen in the next immediate elections upon ratification of these amendments, provided further, it will be considered as their last terms if they are voted in office;
- b) The incumbent and past Presidents of the Philippines shall be ineligible to be a candidate again as President and to other elective positions;
- c) All Local Elective Officials except Barangay Elective Officials on their third and last term shall be prohibited to be a candidate to the same position after these amendments are ratified. Provided that these Local Elective Officials in their first or second term shall be eligible to be a candidate of the same position after such ratification, provided further, it will be their last and final terms if they are voted in office.

ADOPTED,

