

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
____ Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1055**



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9225, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "CITIZENSHIP RETENTION AND RE-ACQUISITION ACT OF 2003"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of Republic Act No. 9225, or the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003, enabled natural-born Filipinos who have become citizens of another country to retain or re-acquire their Filipino citizenship under specific conditions.

While dual citizens are granted the right to vote in Philippine elections, RA 9225 imposes a barrier for those aspiring to run for or be appointed to public office by requiring a personal and sworn renunciation of their foreign citizenship. Many view this requirement as discriminatory, failing to recognize the valuable contributions of overseas Filipinos, particularly their role in supporting the national economy through remittances.

Moreover, this provision risks weakening long-standing relationships with Filipino organizations abroad that actively contribute to nation-building. These groups regularly offer specialized knowledge, professional expertise, and humanitarian aid, including medical missions that serve underserved communities across the country.

Overseas Filipinos are dynamic partners in national development. Denying them full participation in public service, despite their demonstrated commitment to the country, diminishes their value as stakeholders in our democratic process. It is only just that they be allowed to run for local office or accept appointments without having to relinquish their foreign citizenship.

In light of these considerations, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

Section 1. Section of 5 of Republic Act No. 9225 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. Civil and Political Rights and Liabilities. - Those who retain or re-acquire Philippine citizenship under this Act shall enjoy full civil and political rights and be subject to all attendant liabilities and responsibilities under existing laws of the Philippines and the following conditions:

xxx

(3) Those appointed to any public office shall subscribe and swear to an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines and its duly constituted authorities prior to their assumption of office: [Provided, That they] WITHOUT HAVING TO renounce their oath of allegiance to the country where they took that oath.;

xxx"

Sec. 2. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,
