

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4581



INTRODUCED BY HON. DANILO A. DOMINGO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Lone Legislative District of Malolos in accordance with Article VI, Section 5, Paragraph 3 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that "Each city with a population of at least two hundred fifty thousand, or each province, shall have at least one representative." As declared by the Supreme Court, the fundamental purpose of this constitutional mandate is to "ensure quality representation through commonality of interests and ease of access by the representative to the constituents"¹.

The City of Malolos holds an unparalleled position in Philippine constitutional history. It served as the seat of the First Philippine Republic and hosted the Malolos Congress, which drafted the Malolos Constitution. Through this revolutionary government, our country became the first independent republic in all of Asia.² Historically, Malolos has aligned itself with economic growth through the development of infrastructure projects and has generated jobs for its constituents as well as the residents of nearby municipalities.

In 2009, Republic Act No. 9591 was passed into law to create the Lone District of Malolos.³ Regrettably, the law did not survive the deliberations in the Supreme Court in 2010 when it was challenged for using a population projection and falling short of the population requirement.⁴

Presently, the City of Malolos is the capital of the Province of Bulacan and remains part of the First Legislative District of Bulacan along with the Municipalities of Bulakan, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Paombong, and Pulilan. The establishment of the Lone

¹ Bagabuyo v. COMELEC, G.R. No. 176970, December 8, 2008.

² Proclamation No. 533, January 9, 2013.

³ Republic Act No. 9591 (2009).

⁴ Aldaba v. COMELEC, G.R. No. 188078, January 25, 2010.

District of Malolos is long overdue and should have been pursued as early as the release of the 2015 Census of Population, when it finally reached the population threshold.⁵ Today, the City is inhabited by more than 261,189 citizens eager for more significant participation in legislation.⁶

The creation of the Lone Legislative District of Malolos represents the fulfillment of constitutional mandate, historical recognition, and practical governance necessity. Its creation would not only benefit the City, but also those that would remain in the First Legislative District. The balanced distribution of constituents, receipt of its fair share of the National Government's resources, and more manageable areas of governance would give its representatives the opportunity to optimize their functions. Both districts' abilities to render effective public service and attend to its people's needs would be strengthened, and proper representation in Congress would be guaranteed.

In line with the principles of adequate representation and effective public service, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



DANILO A. DOMINGO

⁵ Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015 Census of Population.

⁶ Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census of Population and Housing.

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 57 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8754, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MALOLOS**

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

SECTION 1. ***Legislative District.*** - Section 57 of Republic Act No. 8754, otherwise known as the **Charter of the City of Malolos** is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 57. ***Legislative District.*** - The City of Malolos shall have its own legislative district, separate and distinct from the First Legislative District of Bulacan Province, to commence in the next national election after the effectivity of this Act."

SEC. 2. ***Transition Period.*** - The incumbent representative of the First Legislative District of the Province of Bulacan shall continue to represent the City of Malolos and exercise all powers, functions, and responsibilities pertaining thereto until the new representative of the Lone Legislative District of the City of Malolos shall have been duly elected, proclaimed, and qualified in the next Congressional election following the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 3. ***Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission on Elections shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 4. ***Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. ***Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,