



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **8427**

Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is presently facing a serious fiscal and economic challenge brought about by both domestic and international developments that threaten economic stability and government revenue generation.

On the domestic front, public finances have been strained by the ongoing trillion-peso infrastructure anomaly that has significantly slowed government spending during the first quarter of the year. The slowdown in disbursements has already begun to affect economic activity, resulting in declining investments, reduced business expansion, potential job losses, and an anticipated drop in government revenues from taxes and other sources.

At the same time, the global geopolitical environment has deteriorated. The ongoing conflict involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has created a volatile situation in the global oil market, resulting in a sharp increase in petroleum prices. Should the conflict persist for several months, as many analysts predict, fuel prices are expected to continue rising.

The economic consequences of sustained high fuel prices are far-reaching. Increases in fuel costs inevitably lead to higher transportation and logistics expenses, which in turn cause the prices of basic goods and services to rise. Businesses face higher operating costs, consumers experience reduced purchasing power, and the burden ultimately falls most heavily on the poor and the middle class.

In response to this looming crisis, the President has requested that Congress grant special authority to temporarily suspend certain taxes on fuel products. While this measure could provide immediate relief to consumers and businesses, it carries significant fiscal implications.

The suspension of the 12% Value-Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum products for six months is estimated to result in a revenue loss of approximately ₱300 billion. If excise taxes on petroleum products are likewise suspended, the government may lose an additional ₱125 billion in revenues. In total, this could lead to a potential revenue shortfall of approximately ₱425 billion within a six-month period.

Such a reduction in revenues could place serious pressure on the national budget and may affect the government's ability to sustain critical programs and services.

It is therefore imperative for Congress to identify alternative sources of revenue that can offset the fiscal impact of these necessary economic interventions.

This proposed measure seeks to address both a long-standing legal anomaly and the country's urgent fiscal needs by amending the Administrative Naturalization Law to provide a pathway to Philippine citizenship for qualified foreign nationals who have resided in the Philippines for many years but whose immigration status remains irregular due to past documentary violations.

For decades, there have been foreign nationals—many of whom have established businesses, generated employment, and contributed significantly to the Philippine economy—whose residency or entry into the country was marred by irregularities involving falsified or improperly issued documents. These irregularities often involve birth certificates, marriage records, baptismal certificates, visas, or alien registration documents, many of which were historically facilitated by corrupt practices within certain government institutions.

As a result, many of these individuals remain in a state of legal uncertainty and are vulnerable to harassment, extortion, and exploitation by unscrupulous officials.

This measure seeks to provide a lawful, transparent, and carefully regulated mechanism through which qualified long-term residents may apply for administrative naturalization, subject to strict requirements designed to protect national interest and public security.

Consultations with leaders of various Filipino-Foreign National organizations indicate that as many as fifty thousand (50,000) long-term residents nationwide may qualify for this program.

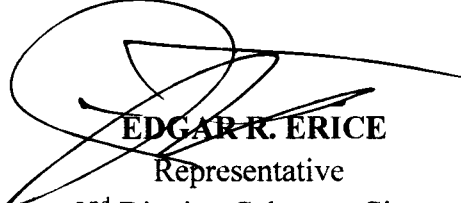
Should even a portion of these individuals avail themselves of the opportunity, the government could generate substantial revenues—potentially reaching hundreds of billions of pesos and possibly up to one trillion pesos—within a relatively short period of time.

Beyond its fiscal benefits, this measure also aims to correct a long-standing structural issue by allowing individuals who have already integrated into Philippine society to regularize their legal status, contribute fully and transparently to the economy, and participate as responsible members of the Filipino community.

At the same time, the program would eliminate opportunities for corruption and extortion associated with undocumented or irregular immigration status.

Ultimately, this proposal is not merely a revenue-generating mechanism. It is a practical and pragmatic policy response that simultaneously addresses a long-standing legal anomaly, strengthens fiscal stability, and protects the national economy during a period of global uncertainty.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City



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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP FOR CERTAIN ALIENS BY ADMINISTRATIVE NATURALIZATION BY AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9139, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE ADMINISTRATIVE NATURALIZATION LAW OF 2000"

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act 9139, otherwise known as "The Administrative
2 Naturalization Law of 2000", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy*, - The State shall control and regulate the
4 admission and integration of aliens into its territory and body politic
5 including the grant of citizenship to aliens. Towards this end, aliens born
6 **AND/OR** residing in the Philippines may be granted Philippine
7 citizenship by administrative proceedings subject to certain requirements
8 dictated by national security and interest.

9 **Section 2.** Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 “SEC 3. *Qualifications.* - Any person desiring to avail of the benefits of
2 this Act must meet the following qualifications:

3 a. The applicant must not be less than eighteen (18) years of age at the
4 time of filing of his/her petition
5

6 **b. THE APPLICANT MUST EITHER BE:**
7

8 **1. BORN IN THE PHILIPPINES AND RESIDING THEREIN**
9 **SINCE BIRTH;**

10 **2. IF BORN IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, THE APPLICANT**
11 **MUST HAVE BEEN LEGALLY ADMITTED OR**
12 **ADMITTED BY MAINTAINING A FALSE, FRAUDULENT**
13 **OR ILLEGAL IDENTITY OR RESIDENCE, SUCH AS**
14 **VISAS OR ALIEN CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION,**
15 **INTO THE PHILIPPINES AND CONTINUOUSLY**
16 **RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR MORE THAN**
17 **TWELVE (12) YEARS. SUCH PERIOD MAY BE REDUCED**
18 **TO SEVEN (7) YEARS FOR APPLICANTS WITH AT**
19 **LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:**
20

21 **i. HAVING ESTABLISHED A NEW INDUSTRY OR**
22 **INTRODUCED A USEFUL INVENTION IN THE**
23 **PHILIPPINES; OR**
24

25 **ii. MARRIED A FILIPINO CITIZEN**
26

27 c. The applicant must be of good moral character and believe in the
28 underlying principles of the Philippine Constitution, and must have
29 conducted himself/ herself in a proper and irreproachable manner
30 during his/her entire period of residence in the Philippines, in his/ her
31 relation with the constituted government as well as with the
32 community in which he/ she is living;
33

34 d. The applicant must have financial capacity from a known trade,
35 business, profession or lawful occupation, from which he/she
36 derives income sufficient for his/her support, and if he/she is
37 married and/or has dependents, also that of his/her family
38

39 e. The applicant must be able to read, write and speak Filipino or any
40 of the dialects of the Philippines;
41

- 1 f. The applicant must have mingled with the Filipinos and evinced a
2 sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions and
3 ideals of the Filipino people”

4 **Section 3.** Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC 5. *Petition for Citizenship.*** – (1) Any person desiring to acquire
6 Philippine citizenship under this Act shall file with the Special Committee
7 on Naturalization created under Section 6 hereof, a petition of five (5)
8 copies legibly typed and signed, thumbmarked and verified by him/her,
9 with the latter’s passport-sized photograph attached to each copy of the
10 petition, and setting forth the following:

- 11 a. The petitioner’s name and surname, and any other name he/she has
12 used or by which he/she is known;
13
14 b. The petitioner’s present and former places of residence;
15
16 c. The petitioner’s place and date of birth, the names and citizenship of
17 his/her parents and their residences;
18
19 d. The petitioner’s trade, business, profession or occupation, and if
20 married, also that of his/her spouse;
21
22 e. Whether the petitioner is single or married or his/her marriage is
23 annulled. If married, the petitioner shall state the date and place of
24 his/her marriage, and the name, date of birth, birthplace, citizenship
25 and residence of his/her spouse; and if his/**HER** marriage is annulled,
26 the date of decree of annulment of marriage and the court which
27 granted the same;
28
29 f. If the petitioner has children, the name, date and birthplace and
30 residences of his/her children;
31
32 g. A declaration that the petitioner possesses all the qualifications and
33 none of the disqualifications under this Act;
34
35 h. A declaration that the petitioner shall never be a public charge; and,
36
37 i. A declaration that it is the petitioner’s true and hones intention to
38 acquire Philippine citizenship and to renounce absolutely and forever
39 any prince, potentiate, State or sovereign, and particularly the country
40 of which the applicant is a citizen or subject.

1 (2) The application shall be accompanied by:

2 **a. PAYMENT OF THE APPLICATION FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF**
3 **FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) TO ANY DULY**
4 **LICENSED COMMERCIAL OR UNIVERSAL BANK**
5 **ACCREDITED BY THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE**
6 **AS AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE INCOME TAX PAYMENTS;**

7
8 **b.** Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's birth
9 certificate;

10
11 **c. IF NATIVE-BORN:** Duplicate original or certified photocopies of
12 petitioner's alien certificate of registration **IDENTITY CARD (ACR**
13 **I-CARD)**, native born certificate of residence;

14
15 **d. IF FOREIGN-BORN: DUPLICATE ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED**
16 **TRUE COPIES OF PETITIONER'S ALIEN CERTIFICATE OF**
17 **REGISTRATION IDENTITY CARD (ACR I-CARD), BIRTH**
18 **CERTIFICATE, AND CERTIFICATE OF RESIDENCE;**

19
20 **e.** Duplicate original or certified photocopies of petitioner's marriage
21 certificate, if married, or the death certificate of his/**HER** spouse, if
22 widowed, or the court decree annulling his/**HER** marriage, if such was
23 the fact;

24
25 **f.** Duplicate original or certified photocopies of birth certificates, alien
26 certificate of registration or native-born certificate of residence if any,
27 of petitioner's minor children, wherever applicable;

28
29 **g.** Affidavit of financial capacity by the petitioner **WITH PROOF**
30 **SHOWING FINANCIAL CAPACITY**, and sworn statements on the
31 good moral character of the petitioner by at least two (2) Filipino
32 citizens of good reputation in his/her place of residence stating that they
33 have personally known the petitioner for at least a period of ten (10)
34 years and that said petitioner has, in their own opinion, all the
35 qualifications necessary to become a citizen of the Philippines and is
36 not in any way disqualified under the provisions of this Act;

37
38 **h.** A medical certificate that petitioner is not a user of prohibited drugs or
39 otherwise a drug dependent and that he/she is not afflicted with
40 acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS);

41
42 **i.** If gainfully employed, the income tax return for the past three (3) years.

Section 4. Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC 6. *Special Committee on Naturalization* - There shall be constituted a Special Committee herein referred to as the “Committee”, with the Solicitor General as chairman, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs or his/her representative, and the National Security Adviser, as members, with the power to approve, deny or reject applications for naturalization as provided in this Act.

The Committee shall meet, as often as practicable, to consider applications for naturalization. For this purpose, the chairman and members shall receive an honorarium of [two thousand pesos (Php 2,000.00)] **SIX THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 6,000)** and [one thousand five hundred pesos (Php 1,500.00)] **FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 4,500.00)**, respectively, per meeting attended.”

Section 5. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 7. *Powers and Functions of Special Committee on Naturalization.*
THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NATURALIZATION SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS AND FUNCTIONS:

- a. TO RECEIVE AND TAKE COGNIZANCE OF PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATION FILED BY ALIENS WHO CLAIM TO POSSESS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS AND NONE OF THE DISQUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY LAW;**
- b. TO DOCKET AND OFFICIALLY RECORD ALL PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATION, INCLUDING THE STAMPING OF THE DATE OF FILING AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF A CORRESPONDING DOCKET NUMBER;**
- c. TO CONDUCT A PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF WHETHER A PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION IS COMPLETE IN SUBSTANCE AND IN FORM, WHICH DETERMINATION SHALL BE MADE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM RECEIPT THEREOF;**
- d. TO DISMISS, WITHOUT PREJUDICE, PETITIONS FOUND TO BE INSUFFICIENT IN SUBSTANCE OR IN FORM,**

1 WITHOUT BARRING THE REFILING OF A COMPLIANT
2 APPLICATION;

3
4 e. TO ORDER AND CAUSE THE PUBLICATION OF QUALIFIED
5 PETITIONS, INCLUDING PERTINENT PORTIONS THEREOF
6 STATING THE NAME, QUALIFICATIONS, AND OTHER
7 PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE APPLICANT, ONCE
8 A WEEK FOR THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IN A
9 NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION;

10
11 f. TO CAUSE THE POSTING OF COPIES OF THE PETITION IN
12 PUBLIC OR CONSPICUOUS PLACES, AS MAY BE
13 REQUIRED, IN ORDER TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND
14 PUBLIC NOTICE;

15
16 g. TO FURNISH CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
17 WITH COPIES OF THE PETITION AND ITS SUPPORTING
18 DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF
19 FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA), THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
20 (BI), THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE PETITIONER'S
21 PLACE OF RESIDENCE, AND THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF
22 INVESTIGATION (NBI);

23
24 h. TO COORDINATE WITH AND REQUIRE REPORTS FROM
25 CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WHICH SHALL,
26 WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THE
27 PETITION, SUBMIT A REPORT STATING WHETHER THE
28 PETITIONER HAS ANY DEROGATORY RECORD ON FILE
29 OR ANY RELEVANT AND MATERIAL INFORMATION
30 ADVERSE TO THE APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP; AND

31
32 i. TO RECEIVE, EVALUATE, AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND
33 INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE CONCERNED
34 AGENCIES IN DETERMINING THE MERITS OF THE
35 PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION.

36 **Section 6.** Section 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

37 "SEC. 9. *Decree of Naturalization and Naturalization Processing Fee.* -
38 Within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the notice of the approval of
39 his/her petition, the applicant shall pay to the Committee a naturalization
40 fee of [One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00)] **ONE MILLION**
41 **PESOS (PHP1,000,000) PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS: FIVE**
42 **HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 500,000.00)** upon the approval

1 of the petition and [Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00)] **FIVE**
2 **HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 500,000.00)** upon taking of the
3 oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines; forthwith, a
4 certificate of naturalization shall be issued. Within sixty (60) days from
5 the issuance of the certificate, the petitioner shall take an oath of allegiance
6 in the proper forum upon proof of payment of the required naturalization
7 processing fee and certificate of naturalization. Should the applicant fail
8 to take the abovementioned oath of allegiance within said period of time,
9 the approval of the permit shall be deemed abandoned.”

10
11 **Section 7.** Section 11 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 “SEC. 11. *Status of Alien Spouse and Minor Children.* After the approval
13 of the petition for administrative naturalization in cancellation of
14 applicant’s alien certificate of registration, applicant’s alien lawful spouse
15 and minor children may file a petition for cancellation of their alien
16 certificates of registration with the Committee, subject to the filing fee of
17 [Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)] **TWO HUNDRED**
18 **THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) PER PERSON** and naturalization
19 fee of [Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00)] **FOUR HUNDRED**
20 **THOUSAND PESOS (P400,000.00) PER PERSON** payable as follows:
21 [Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)] **Two Hundred thousand pesos**
22 **(P200,000.00)** upon the approval of the petition and [Twenty Thousand
23 Pesos (P20,000.00)] **Two Hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)** upon
24 taking the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.”

25
26 **Section 8.** Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

27 “**SECTION 12. BAR ON PROSECUTION FOR ILLEGALITY OF**
28 **STAY. - APPLICANTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED**
29 **FOR NATURALIZATION UNDER THIS ACT SHALL NOT BE**
30 **PROSECUTED FOR CRIMES DEFINED UNDER**
31 **COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 613, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS**
32 **THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940, WHICH ARE INHERENT TO**
33 **ILLEGAL RESIDENCE SUCH AS THE ABSENCE OF VALID**
34 **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS OR VISA: PROVIDED, THAT IN NO**
35 **CASE SHALL ALIEN REFUGEES IN THE PHILIPPINES BE**
36 **QUALIFIED TO APPLY UNDER THIS ACT.**

37 **THE BAR TO PROSECUTION SHALL APPLY ONLY TO SUCH**
38 **CRIMES OR FELONIES COMMITTED DUE TO ACTS**

1 NECESSARY OR ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN A FALSE,
2 FRAUDULENT OR ILLEGAL RESIDENCE, SUCH AS
3 FALSIFICATION OF MARRIAGE, BIRTH OR BAPTISMAL
4 CERTIFICATES OR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS SUCH AS VISAS OR
5 ALIEN CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION.”

6
7 **Section 9.** Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 “Section 13. *Cancellation of the Certificate of Naturalization.* The
9 Committee may cancel certificates of naturalization issued under this Act
10 in the following cases:

- 11 a. If it finds that the naturalized person or his/**HER** duly authorized
12 representative made any false statement or misrepresentation or
13 committed any violation of laws, rules and regulations in connection
14 with the petition for naturalization;
- 15
16 b. If the naturalized person or his/**HER** spouse, or any of his/her minor
17 children who acquire Filipino citizenship by virtue of his/**HER**
18 naturalization shall, within five (5) years next following the grant of
19 Philippine citizenship, establish permanent residence in a foreign
20 country, that individual’s certificate of naturalization or acquired
21 citizenship shall be cancelled or revoked; Provided, That the fact of
22 such person’s remaining for more than one (1) year in his/**HER**
23 country of origin, or two (2) years in any foreign country, shall be
24 considered prima facie evidence of intent to permanently reside
25 therein;
- 26
27 c. If the naturalized person or his/**HER** spouse or child with acquired
28 citizenship allows himself to be used as a dummy in violation of any
29 constitutional or legal provision requiring Philippine citizenship as a
30 condition for the exercise, use or enjoyment of a right, franchise or
31 privilege, the certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall
32 be cancelled or revoked; and,
- 33
34 d. If the naturalized person or his/**HER** spouse or child with acquired
35 citizenship commits any act inimical to national security, the
36 certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be cancelled
37 or revoked.
- 38

1 In case the naturalized person holds any hereditary title, or belong
2 to any order of nobility, he shall make an express renunciation of his/**HER**
3 title or membership in this order of nobility before the Special Committee
4 or its duly authorized representative, and such renunciation shall be
5 included in the records of his/**HER** application for citizenship.”

6
7 **Section 10.** Section 15 of the same Act is hereby deleted and shall be replaced by Section 16.
8 The succeeding Sections particularly Sections 17, 18, 19 and 20 shall be adjusted accordingly.

9
10 **Section 11. Repealing Clause.** All provisions of existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and
11 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
12 accordingly.

13
14
15 **Section 12. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

17
18 Approved,