

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8877**



Introduced by Representative Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article IV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides who are citizens of the Philippines including those naturalized in accordance with law. Naturalization may be administrative, judicial, or legislative, and all these modes of acquiring citizenship require an act of Congress.

Administrative naturalization is governed by Republic Act No. 9139 or the "Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000." Judicial naturalization is covered by Commonwealth Act No. 473 or the "Revised Naturalization Law." Both these laws provide for the qualifications of an applicant for Philippine citizenship. On the other hand, legislative naturalization is a direct grant of citizenship by Congress to qualified foreigners. Legislative grant of Philippine citizenship is considered a blanket authority of Congress.

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Grace Lee, also known as Kyung Hee Lee, a Korean national who has resided in the Philippines for a continuous period of thirty-three (33) years. She possesses the qualifications and none of the disqualifications provided under Commonwealth Act No. 473, particularly Section 2 which states:

"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 government of the Philippines, where Philippine history, government and civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school curriculum, during the entire period of residence in the Philippines required of him prior to the hearing of his petition for naturalization as Philippine citizen.”

Grace Lee, now forty-three (43) years old, has resided in the Philippines for more than thirty-three (33) years, far exceeding the residency requirement under the law. During this time, she has built a reputable career as a media personality, entrepreneur, and businesswoman, contributing to the country’s media industry and economic activity.

She is also actively involved in charitable, civic, and faith-based initiatives. Since 2013, she has been an official member and supporter of the Kalayaan Cyber Christian Network (KCCN), participating in church leadership and mission programs that promote community and spiritual development.

Although born to Korean parents, Grace Lee has long considered the Philippines her home. She is married to a Filipino, has immersed herself in Filipino culture, language, and traditions, and has built strong personal and professional ties in the country.

She has no minor children of school age; thus, the sixth qualification under Commonwealth Act No. 473 on school enrollment does not apply to her.

Given her long residence, lawful occupation, good moral character, and meaningful contributions to Philippine society, Grace Lee has clearly shown her genuine attachment to the Philippines and her desire to formally become part of the Filipino nation.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos
GP (GALING SA PUSO) Partylist

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AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO KYUNG HEE LEE, ALSO KNOWN AS
"GRACE LEE"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Kyung Hee Lee, also known as Grace Lee, is hereby granted Philippine
2 citizenship with all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations
3 appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.
4

5 **SECTION 2.** Kyung Hee Lee shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the
6 Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall
7 be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.
8

9 **SECTION 3.** Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall
10 issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Kyung Hee Lee, and she shall thereupon enter upon the full
11 enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.
12

13 **SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
14 Gazette or in a newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.