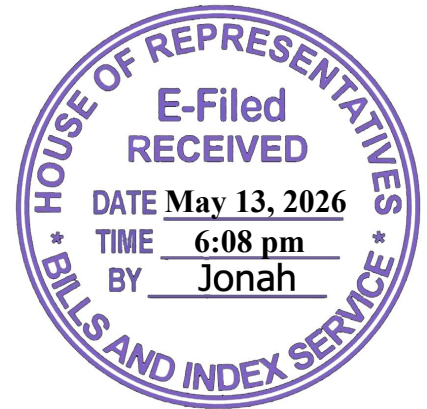




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9261



Introduced by **Representative Maria Rachel J. Arenas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 Shir Shah Ayobi, the current Country Director of the American Red Cross in the
2 Philippines, has devoted more than thirty (30) years of his professional life to
3 humanitarian service through the International Committee of the Red Cross and the
4 American Red Cross. A civil engineer by training and an Afghan national of legal age,
5 Mr. Ayobi has served in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East in response
6 to major disasters, including the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Haiti Earthquake, and
7 Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda).

8 Mr. Ayobi has been residing and working in the Philippines since March 2018,
9 with prior periods of residence from 2014 to 2016.

10 In his capacity as Country Director, Mr. Ayobi has led and managed
11 humanitarian programs focused on disaster recovery, disaster risk reduction, and
12 community resilience. He oversaw the Typhoon Yolanda recovery and post-recovery
13 programs in the Province of Leyte and supported long-term Disaster Risk Reduction
14 (DRR) initiatives in the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, and Camarines Sur. As a
15 civil engineer, he has likewise contributed to the construction of shelter facilities and
16 the improvement of access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for vulnerable
17 Filipino communities.

18 Mr. Ayobi has built deep and lasting relationships with local communities,
19 government authorities, and members of civil society throughout the country. He has
20 also developed a profound appreciation for the Filipino way of life, values, social
21 bonds, and culture, and he has chosen the Philippines as the country where he wishes
22 to permanently establish his home, as a personal and long-term commitment. His

1 family has likewise established roots in the Philippines, with his children having studied
2 or currently studying at the International School of Manila.

3 He is a person of good moral character, has demonstrated financial capacity,
4 and has abided by Philippine laws and regulations throughout his residence in the
5 country.

6 In recognition of Mr. Ayobi's exceptional humanitarian contributions to the
7 Filipino people, his demonstrated commitment to the Philippines as his permanent
8 home, and his qualifications under existing law, the grant of Philippine citizenship by
9 legislative act is earnestly sought.

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MARIA RACHEL J. ARENAS
Representative
3rd District, Pangasinan



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9261

Introduced by **Representative Maria Rachel J. Arenas**

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO SHIR SHAH AYOBİ

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

1 SECTION 1. Shir Shah Ayobi is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all
2 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
4 Philippines.

5 SEC. 2. Shir Shah Ayobi shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of
6 the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of
7 Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

8 SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration
9 shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Shir Shah Ayobi, who shall thereupon enter
10 into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

11 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the *Official*
12 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 Approved,