



Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by Hon. Henry S. Oaminal

**JOINT RESOLUTION
CONVENING BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE 1987
CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT AND TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN
RESTRICTIVE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS SPECIFICALLY ON
ARTICLES XII, XIV AND XVI THEREOF**

WHEREAS, current developments in our political, economic and social life necessitate the revision of our fundamental law, the 1987 Constitution, so as to make it more responsive to the requirements of peaceful and orderly growth;

WHEREAS, under Article XVII of the Constitution , any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by the Congress as a constituent assembly , upon a vote of three-fourths of all its members, by a constitutional convention, or by the people through initiative;

WHEREAS, there is a strong public opinion clamoring for the proposal to constitute Congress into a constituent assembly as it is more practical over a constitutional convention or people's initiative to adopt as it is more expeditious and least expensive process of amending the constitution since it does not entail the election of charter framers and the maintenance of a separate assembly, secretariat and offices for it is only the present members of congress sitting as a constituent assembly who will propose the revisions or amendments;

WHEREAS, to assist the Constituent Assembly in drafting a well-crafted revision of the constitution, Congress will create a group of experts composed of not less than fifteen (15) members coming from different sectors which includes the academe, religious, business, retired justices, non-government organizations, labor, urban poor and farmers and fisherfolks to serve as the technical working group (TWG) to provide inputs to Congress in drafting the revisions to the Constitution;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution provides for a unitary system of government where governmental powers, authority, functions, responsibilities and resources are concentrated in the national government;

WHEREAS, the concentration of enormous powers in imperial Manila has created a highly centralized government resulting to slow socio-economic developments in remote parts of the country which oftentimes disregarded, overlooked, or the least of the priorities in the program of the government;

WHEREAS, a shift from the current unitary system of government to a federal system in which government powers, functions, responsibilities and resources are allocated between the federal government and the states with their local governments is seen as the viable solution to these growing concerns of slow growth and development;

WHEREAS, federalism may be the key in finally achieving peace in war-torn Mindanao because the legitimate interests of Muslim Filipinos and indigenous people will be realized and best served in the federal system for the local leaders have the power and resources to address their needs;

WHEREAS, besides having sufficient power and resources to address internal problems, states will be allowed to realize their full economic potentials as self-governing units that are directly answerable to their respective constituents as it would speed up the attainment of inclusive growth, which will reduce poverty in urban areas and the countryside;

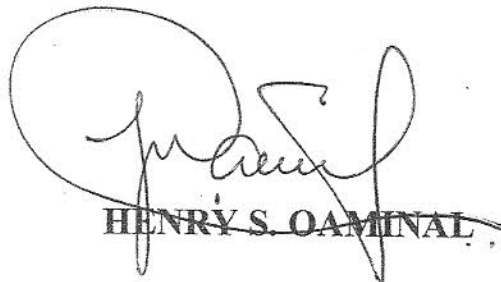
WHEREAS, there have been also a widespread clamor and calls from the various sectors of Philippine society to amend the Constitution by removing the 60-40% equity limitations of foreign investments in the country in order to accelerate economic growth and fulfill our country's international commitment to allow foreign businesses to breeze in a more conducive investment environment;



WHEREAS, the establishment of federal system of government requires the revision of the Constitution and convening both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly is the fastest and least expensive mode of amending the constitution, guided by a group of experts to provide inputs to Congress in drafting the revisions to the Constitution, and should therefore be the mode of revising the constitution: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) all its members of each House voting separately, to convene both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly to propose revision of the 1987 Constitution to establish a federal system of government and to propose amendments to certain restrictive economic provisions specifically on Articles XII, XIV and XVI thereof.

Adopted,



HENRY S. OAMINAL