

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

06

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

Introduced by Representative Lucy Torres Gomez

**JOINT RESOLUTION
TO CONVENE CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVISING THE CONSTITUTION TO
ESTABLISH A FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, REMOVE
THE RESTRICTIVE ECONOMIC PROVISIONS OF THE
CHARTER AND UPDATE ITS ANTIQUATED PROVISIONS**

WHEREAS, for almost its entire history, the Philippines has been governed under a unitary-presidential system which is highly centralized in Manila;

WHEREAS, under such political set-up, the regions, except those encompassing the metropolitan areas of Manila, Cebu and Davao, have suffered much from neglect or residual attention from the national government;

WHEREAS, to federalize is a clear political option for the nation in moving forward inasmuch as it will satisfy the thirst for self-determination to the same extent that it will stamp out the flames of separatism;

WHEREAS, compared with "amendments" to the Constitution, "revisions" entail institutionalizing other much-needed changes to the twenty-nine (29) year old Charter;

WHEREAS, removing the restrictive economic provisions of the fundamental law would undoubtedly result in the exponential growth of foreign direct investments (FDIs) and catapult the Philippines even further ahead of other Asian countries;

WHEREAS, convening Congress into a constituent assembly is the least expensive and fastest mode of initiating changes to the basic law, with the required plebiscite synchronized with the mid-term elections in 2019;

WHEREAS, apprehensions against a sitting Congress effectuating by itself the changes to Charter are misplaced considering that: (1) full transparency of its proceedings would be ensured; (2) the widest consultations with the people will be made; and (3) unbending adherence to the constitutional principle that any/all provisions that are ostensibly beneficial to the lawmakers themselves could not be enjoyed by them but would only be made applicable to the next Congress. Now, therefore, be it;

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, upon a vote of three-fourths of all their Members, with each House voting separately, to convene Congress into a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of revising the Constitution to establish a federal system of government, remove the restrictive economic provisions of the Charter, and update its antiquated provisions.

Adopted,


LUCY TORRES GOMEZ