

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

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**Introduced by Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama
and Hon. Anthony M. Bravo
COOP-NATCCO PARTYLIST**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FEDERAL FORM OF
GOVERNMENT THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO
AMEND, OR REVISE THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, after the twenty-five (25) year existence and implementation of the 1987 Constitution, which upholds and preserves democratic principles and institutions, our country is still characterized as underdeveloped with a current government system that is ineffective, inefficient and plagued with widespread graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, despite the democratic and republican nature of the Philippine state which is supposed to promote a government that advances every Filipino's general welfare and alleviate each citizen's standard of living, the country remains riddled with the persistence of massive poverty, ethnic conflicts, deteriorating physical environment, unresponsive and unjust political structures coupled with rampant social injustice and hampered economic growth;

WHEREAS, due to these factual circumstances, there is now a pressing need to establish a more effective, more efficient, more responsive and more appropriate system of government attuned to not only the present and existing social, political and economic conditions of the country but to the unique and distinctive character of the Philippines, an archipelagic state and a nation that is multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic in nature;

WHEREAS, an effective, efficient, responsive and appropriate political system can only be established by shifting from a unitary-presidential system of government to a federal system of government;

WHEREAS, under this system of government, there will be true decentralization of power, characterized by authentic, genuine and effective devolution of government powers and functions to be distributed from the national government to the regional government

WHEREAS, the preferred approach is asymmetric federalism which refers to the adoption of federalism to be done on a region by region basis or through a gradual shift from the presidential/unitary state to a federal state instead of blanket imposition of a federal system and accords federal statehood to regions which implement crucial government programs, such as basic social services, protection of human rights and implementation of asset reform initiatives;

WHEREAS, under an asymmetric federal system of governance, the country shall be composed of a national government comprised of regional governments that are equal in federal matters but with varying degrees of autonomy or asymmetric division of powers to be accorded to regions depending on their level of readiness or willingness to assume federal statehood;

WHEREAS, due to the appropriateness and applicability of asymmetric federalism to the socio-political and economic landscape of the Philippines, this government system shall pave the way for a progressive national self-determination, effective governance and a more participative politics which will hold together the regions harmoniously in one peaceful democracy, for a responsive, effective and efficient government that recognizes and promotes cultural diversity, stimulates socioeconomic development and promotes a general standard of equality, and these will discourage insurgencies and secessionist movements;

WHEREAS, there is a need to create a Constitution that will define the parameters of the asymmetric federal system and the powers and structures of the federal government;

WHEREAS, this is the most opportune time to push for a rational, participatory, transparent and truly citizen-led Constitutional reform process due to the high approval and trust ratings of the current administration which has restored the country's faith and trust in its own government;

WHEREAS, it is likewise timely to revise the 1987 Constitution and replace it with a supreme charter that will not only pave the way for the adoption of asymmetric federal government but to create a Constitution that is responsive to current times and embodies principles and provisions that will truly make it worthy to be called the "people's constitution";

WHEREAS, the Constitution expressly authorizes Congress, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, to call a constitutional convention;

WHEREAS, a constitutional convention is the most transparent, exhaustive, democratic and participatory means of implementing constitutional reform among the modes provided in the 1987 constitution for it will be composed of delegates elected directly by the people themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Congress of the Philippines with a vote of two-thirds of all its Members, to call for a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to, or revision of, the 1987 Constitution.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Congress shall enact an enabling legislation which will embody any other details relative to the shift from a unitary/presidential state to a federal state, the creation and holding of the Constitutional Convention, its pertinent particulars such as election and qualification of delegates, necessary appropriations and such other relevant matters involving this particular constitutional reform.



HON. SABINIANO S. CANAMA



HON. ANTHONY M. BRAVO