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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

R. B. H. No. 03

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by: **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

RESOLUTION

OF BOTH HOUSES CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO, OR REVISION OF, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the fundamental law of the land, is the foundation of the social, political, and economic stability of the country and that it need not be static and written in stone. It must always be dynamic and reflect or adjust to what the current situation of the country requires in order for it to continue serving the interests of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, several issues have been brought to fore on some of the provisions of our present charter such as clamors for changes in the form of government, the legislative system, socio-economic framework, the jurisdiction of the Commission on Appointments, and such other matters which may only be achieved by amending or revising the Constitution;

WHEREAS, there is also a need to study challenges brought about by the changing social, political, and economic environment both here in the country and abroad that may require modifications in the constitution to enable the country to adjust and cope with these challenges;

WHEREAS, our people should have a direct role in the framing of their basic law and by reason thereof, the persons tasked with enshrining the ideals and aspirations of our people in the Constitution should be chosen by the people themselves;

WHEREAS, the option of Congress convening itself into a Constituent Assembly may not be the best option to propose amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution as this may divide the attention and resources of the legislature that are best devoted to the formulation of measures that would help improve the country's economic and social conditions;

WHEREAS, it may therefore be more prudent to have the present Charter reviewed for possible amendments or revision by a Constitutional Convention that shall serve as a

forum for discussions and debates grounded not only on reason but also on research and academic studies on proposed remedies to the perceived defects of our present constitution;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article XVII, Section 3 of the Constitution, Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, call a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to, or a revision of, the Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines, in joint session assembled, by a vote of not less than two thirds (2/3) of all the Members of each House voting separately:

Section 1. *Constitutional Convention.* – There is hereby called a Constitutional Convention, hereinafter referred to as the Convention, to propose amendments to, or revision of, the 1987 Constitution.

Section 2. *Composition.* – The Convention shall be composed of Delegates elected in the same manner, number and composition as that of the House of Representatives.

Section 3. *Qualifications.* – Delegates shall have the same qualifications as those required of Members of the House of Representatives.

Section 4. *Election of Delegates.* – The election of delegates to the convention shall be held not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the adoption of this Resolution. The Commission on Elections shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the conduct of such election.

Section 5. *Ban on Political Parties.* – All political parties, or a coalition or alliance of such, their officers and members are prohibited from nominating, fielding, endorsing, supporting, directly or indirectly, material or otherwise, or campaigning for or against any candidate. No candidate shall represent or allow himself or herself to be represented as being a candidate of any political party or any political coalition or group in which a political party is a member or convenor thereof.

Section 6. *Declaration of Intent.* – In addition to documentary requirements that the Commission on Elections may require of a candidate during the filing of his or her certificate of candidacy, the candidate shall also submit a concise statement, not exceeding one hundred and fifty words, of the principal constitutional reforms, programs or policies he proposes to advocate if elected. A copy of each of statement shall be conspicuously posted in each polling place in the district.

Section 7. *Oath Of Affirmation.* – Delegates to the Convention shall qualify and assume Office by taking the following oath or affirmation:

I, (_____ name _____), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as delegate to the 20__ Constitutional Convention by drafting the proposed amendments to, or revisions of, the fundamental law which are truly reflective of the ideas and aspirations of the Filipino people, endeavor to complete the work within the period provided by law, not to run for any office in the first local and the first national elections to be held after the ratification of the amendments that the Convention will

propose; and I will preserve and defend the Constitution of the Republic. So help me God." (In case of Affirmation, last sentence shall be omitted.)

Section 8. *Future Disqualification.* – Any person elected and qualified as delegate to the Convention shall not be eligible to run for the office in the first local and national elections to be held after the ratification of proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution; or appointed to any government office or position while the Convention is in session and during the period of one (1) year after its final adjournment.

Section 9. *Organization of the Convention.* – (1) The Constitutional Convention shall be convened sixty (60) days after the proclamation of all its winning members by the Commission on Elections at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). Its succeeding sessions may take place at the same venue or in any other such venue decided by the Delegates. The Chairman of the Commission on Elections, assisted by the Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, shall take charge of all arrangements and preparations for the convening of the Convention;

(2) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly preside at its opening session until the Presiding Officer is elected by the Delegates of the Convention. The election of a Presiding Officer from among the delegates shall be the first order of business. The Convention shall be deemed organized upon the election and qualification of a Presiding Officer. The Convention shall elect such other officers as it may deem necessary.

Section 10. *Rules and Quorum.* – (1) A majority of all delegates shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day or compel the attendance of absent delegates in such manner and under such penalties as the Convention may provide.

(2) The Convention may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish delegates for disorderly behavior, and with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of all delegates, suspend or expel a delegate. A penalty of suspension shall not exceed sixty (60) days.

(3) The plenary sessions of the Convention, including the meetings of its committees, shall be public and duly recorded.

(4) The Convention shall conduct public hearings to ensure that the Filipino people will have adequate and sustained participation in the formulation of proposed amendments to the Constitution.

(5) Delegates shall enjoy franking privileges for official mail. The public shall be given a fifty percent (50%) discount in the regular mail postage should they write to their delegates.

(6) The Convention shall keep a Journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same. The public shall have full access to the records of proceedings of the Convention.

Section 11. *Contempt.* – The Convention shall have the power to cite for contempt any person before it who disobeys any order of the Convention or refuses to be sworn or to

testify or to answer a proper question by the Convention or any of its members, or testifying, testifies falsely or evasively.

Section 12. *Approval of Proposed Constitutional Amendments or Revisions.* – The final approval of proposed amendments to, or revision of, the Constitution shall require a majority vote of all the delegates to the convention.

Section 13. *Administrative and Technical Assistance.* – All government agencies and instrumentalities, including Congress, shall place at the disposal of the Convention such personnel, premises, supplies and furniture thereof which can, in their judgment, be spared without detriment to the public service without cost, refund or additional pay.

Section 14. *Parliamentary Immunities.* – Laws relative to parliamentary immunity of members of Congress shall be applicable to the delegates of the Convention.

Section 15. *Compensation.* – (1) Each Member shall receive a *per diem* of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00) for every day of attendance in the Convention or any of its committees and to necessary traveling expenses to and from his or her residence when attending the sessions of the Convention or any of its committees.

(2) The Convention shall determine the amount for the office and staff expenses of its members subject to pertinent government personnel compensation and laws.


Section 16. *Completion.* - The Convention shall complete its work within one (1) year from the time of its organization.

Section 17. *Ratification.* - The President shall fix the date of the plebiscite for the ratification or rejection of the proposed amendments to, or revisions of, the Constitution which shall not be later than sixty (60) days following its submission to the President. They shall become valid and effective upon ratification by a majority of the votes cast in such plebiscite.

Section 18. *Funding.* - There is hereby appropriated an initial amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP500,000,000.00) out of any funds of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the implementation of this measure. Such other amounts needed for the Convention to accomplish its task and the holding of a plebiscite for the ratification of the amendments to, or revision of, the constitution shall be appropriated for by Congress through a supplemental budget or the General Appropriations Act.

Section 19. *Approval.* - This Act shall take effect upon its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City