

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES NO. 09

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative **ANTONIO R. FLOIRENDO, JR.**

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES CONVENING THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO PROPOSE REVISION OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION TO ADOPT A FEDERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, it is the fervent desire of the sovereign Filipino people to build a just and humane society and establish a government that shall embody their most cherished ideals and aspirations;

WHEREAS, the powers of government are established, defined and limited by the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land, and that governmental powers are distributed among political units to conserve and develop their own patrimony and secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of independence and democracy;

WHEREAS, the overwhelming victory of His Excellency, President Rodrigo R. Duterte, who has openly campaigned for the adoption of federalism, reflects the aspiration of the Filipino people to change the present unitary form of government;

WHEREAS, in a federal form of government, governmental powers are allocated between the national government and regional governments, where each regional government enjoys a certain level of independency, as compared to a unitary government where governmental powers are mostly concentrated in the national government;

WHEREAS, in an archipelago of over 7,100 islands consisting of 42,036 barangays, 1,489 municipalities, 145 cities, 81 provinces and 18 regions, with 30 dominant ethnic groups and 15 ethno-linguistic groups, federalism is seen as the best solution to address challenges posed by geography and diversity;

WHEREAS, federalism will allow regional governments, among others, to retain most of their income and spend the funds on programs and plans suitable in their regions without interference from the national government and be able to develop their own core competencies and competitive capabilities, manage their own affairs and immediately address any problems that may arise in their respective regions;

WHEREAS, federalism will bring the government closer to the people as the people themselves will be more involved in government decisions, making their political leaders assume greater responsibility and accountability;

WHEREAS, as envisioned by President Rodrigo R. Duterte, the adoption of federalism includes the creation of the state of Bangsamoro to accommodate the legitimate interests of Filipino Muslims and allow them to freely administer their basic law;

WHEREAS, the revision of the 1987 Constitution is necessary to adopt federalism that will bring about unity to various sentiments and interests of the Filipino people from across the Philippine archipelago and its various political units, ethnic groups and ethno-linguistic groups;

WHEREAS, Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution provides that any amendment to, or revision of, the 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, the 24 Senators and 297 Members of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress truly represent the voices of the sovereign Filipino people having been respectively elected at large, by district and by party-list affiliation, and are in the best position to deliberate the final draft of the proposed revision before it is submitted to the people for ratification;

WHEREAS, constituent assembly will prevent possible duplication of works by the Seventeenth Congress and constitutional convention on matters for inclusion in the proposed revision, especially on the Bangsamoro Basic Law, and will not require additional funds for the election of delegates;

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions of the constitution may be started immediately as soon as three-fourth votes of the Senate and Members of the House or Representatives, voting separately, have been attained unlike the constitutional convention which may only be started upon election of the delegates;

WHEREAS, the mandatory votes to approve revision of the Constitution by constituent assembly are at least 18 Senators and at least 223 Members of the House of Representatives while the minimum mandatory votes by constitutional convention are only 16 Senators and 168 Members of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, it is more practical, convenient and economical, with more exacting standards of approval, to revise the Constitution through constituent assembly rather than by constitutional convention: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, in joint session assembled, by a vote of not less than three-fourths of all members of each House, voting separately, to convene the Seventeenth Congress into a constituent assembly to propose revision of the 1987 Constitution to adopt a federal form of government.

Adopted,


ANTONIO R. FLOIRENDO, JR.
Representative
2nd District, Davao del Norte