COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1208

Submitted by the Committee on Justice on September 13, 2021

Re: House Bill No. 9376

Recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Vicente “Ching” S. E. Veloso III, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Yedda Marie K. Romualdez

Mr. Speaker:


"AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ELIZABETH EDER ZOBEL DE AYALA"

Respectfully submitted,

VICENTE “CHING” S. E. VELOSO III
Chairperson
Committee on Justice

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ELIZABETH EDER ZOBEL DE AYALA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Elizabeth Eder Zobel De Ayala and giving her all the rights and privileges as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under our Constitution and existing laws.

Elizabeth Eder Zobel de Ayala (Lizzie) married Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala in June of 1987 in her hometown of Cali, Colombia. Since August 1987, she has made the Philippines her home. Her four children: Mariana, Jaime Alfonso, Eugenia, and Mercedes and her two grandchildren, Vidal Augusto Zobel de Ayala Aboitiz and Luisa Aboitiz Zobel de Ayala, are all Filipino citizens.

In 1994, she joined the Founding Board of Museo Pambata on which she served until 2001. In 1999, Lizzie co-founded the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation whose principal
objective was to develop literacy programs that addressed the declining functional literacy rates in public school students in the Philippines. In partnership with the Department of Education, Sa Aklat Sisikat trained public school teachers and designed in-class strategies to create reading ready communities in public schools throughout the country until 2011.

Lizzie served on the board of the National Museum of the Philippines from the time of her appointment by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2001 to 2010. As an advocate for access to responsible family planning in the Philippines, she was a founding Board Member of the Friendly Care Foundation and the Forum for Family Planning and Development. Since 1998, Lizzie worked in support of the Reproductive Health Bill in the Philippines which was enacted into law in December of 2012. She is also a Member of the Philippine Center for Population and Development.

As a result of her work in the Philippines, Lizzie was named to the board of the Population Council, based in New York City, which delivers evidence-based solutions to overcome obstacles to health and development, with offices in over 50 countries. She served on the Board of the Population Council from 2012-2018 and today continues to participate in its efforts as a Member of its Development and Engagement Committee.

More recently, Lizzie co-founded and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Teach for the Philippines, a country partner of Teach for All. In partnership with the Department of Education, Teach for the Philippines is a nationwide non-profit organization that works to ensure that all Filipino children have equal access to quality education. Founded in 2012, Teach for the Philippines focuses its efforts on improving teacher quality and addressing system-wide challenges, informed by an exchange of
experiences with our 14 regional partners such Teach for China, Teach for Japan, Teach for India, Teach for Malaysia and others.

Lizzie is also a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Asian Philanthropy and Society in Hong Kong dedicated to expanding the quality and quantity of philanthropy and social delivery organizations throughout Asia.

In 2019, Lizzie was named to the Board of Trustees of Boston College, from which she graduated in 1987, with a B.A. Degree in Philosophy and Economics.

For these reasons, the passage of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.

Signed,

Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez  
Leyte, First District

Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo 
Pampanga, Second District

Rep. Antonio “Tonypet” Albano  
Isabela, First District

Rep. Alfred delos Santos  
ANG PROBINSYANO Partylist

Rep. Lorna Bautista-Bandigan  
Davao Occidental, Lone District

Rep. Sergio Dagooc  
APEC Partylist

Rep. Strike Revilla  
Cavite, Second District

Rep. Roger G. Mercado  
Southern Leyte, Lone District

Rep. Angelica Co  
BHW Partylist

Rep. Adriano Ebcas  
AKO PADAYON PILIPINO Partylist

Rep. Ferdinando Martin G. Romualdez  
TINGOG Partylist

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez  
TINGOG Partylist

Negros Occidental, Fifth District

Billiran, Lone District

Rep. Rodante Marcoleta  
SAGIP Partylist

Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Palma II  
Zamboanga Sibugay, First District

Rep. Sonny L. Lagon  
AKO BISAYA Partylist

Rep. Paz C. Radaza  
Lapu Lapu City, Lone District

Rep. Anna Villaraza-Suarez  
ALONA Partylist

Rep. Mike Defensor  
ANAKALUSUGAN Partylist
Rep. Allan Ty  
LPGMA Partylist

Rep. Hector Sanchez  
Catanduanes, Lone District

Rep. Frederil "Fred" Castro  
Capiz, Second District

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo  
Camiguin, Lone District

Rep. Elizalde Co  
AKO BICOL Partylist

Rep. Leonardo "Jun" Babasa  
Zamboanga del Sur, Second District

Rep. Claudine Bautista  
DUMPER PTDA Partylist

Rep. Sam Vargas Alfonso  
Cagayan, Second District

Rep. Godofredo Guya  
RECOBODA Partylist

Rep. Alan Ecleo  
Dinagat Islands, Lone District

Rep. Jose Gay Padiernos  
GP Partylist

Rep. Geraldine Roman  
Bataan, First District

Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora  
Davao de Oro, First District

Rep. Argel Cabatbat  
MAGSASAKA Partylist
AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
ELIZABETH EDER ZOBEL DE AYALA

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Mrs. Elizabeth Eder Zobel de Ayala is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Mrs. Elizabeth Eder Zobel de Ayala shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Mrs. Elizabeth Eder Zobel de Ayala who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9376
(Approved by the Committee on September 2, 2021)

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ELIZABETH EDER ZOBEL DE AYALA”


Committee Chairperson: REP. VICENTE “CHING” S.E. VELOSO III

OBJECTIVE:

To grant Philippine citizenship to Elizabeth Eder Zobel De Ayala, a citizen of the United States of America, in recognition of her notable contributions to the Philippines, considering that:

- she has been residing in the Philippines since August 1987;
- she is married to Jaime Zobel De Ayala and has four children, all of whom are Filipino citizens;
- she joined the Founding Board of Museo Pambata in 1994 and served until 2001;
- in 1999, she co-founded the Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation which has the principal objective to develop literacy programs that addressed the declining functional literacy rates in public school students in the county;
- she partnered with the Department of Education through her Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation to train public school teachers and design in-class strategies to create reading ready communities in public schools across the county;
- she was appointed by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Board Member of the National Museum of the Philippine from 2001 to 2010;
- as an advocate of responsible parenthood, she became the founding Board Member of the Friendly Care Foundation and the Forum for Family Planning and Development that provided access to responsible family planning in the country;
- she worked in support of the Reproductive Health Bill in the Philippines which was enacted into law in December 2012;
- she served, from 2012-2018, on the board of the Population Council, based in New York City with offices in over 50 countries, which delivers evidence-based solutions to
overcome obstacles to health and development, and today continues to participate in its efforts as a member of its Development and Engagement Committee;

● she recently co-founded Teach for the Philippines, a nationwide non-profit organization that works to ensure that all Filipino children have equal access to quality education, and she presently serves as the Chairperson of its Board of Trustees. The organization focuses its efforts on improving teacher quality and addressing system-wide challenges, informed by an exchange of experiences in our 14 regional partners such as Teach China, Teach Japan, Teach India, Teach Malaysia;

● she is also a founding member of the Board of Trustees of the Center for Asian Philanthropy and Society in Hong Kong dedicated to expanding the quality and quantity of philanthropy and social delivery organizations throughout Asia;

● she graduated in 1987 in Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Economics, where she was also named to the Board of Trustees in 2019; and

● she embodies the Filipino values of perseverance, determination, and dedication to work and service to the country, and has a sincere desire to live in the Philippines as a Filipino citizen.

KEY PROVISIONS:

● Grants Philippine citizenship Ms. Elizabeth Eder De Ayala with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations, appurtenant thereto.

● Provides that upon the taking of the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, and issuance of his Certificate of Naturalization, Ms. Zobel De Ayala shall enter upon the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

RELATED LAWS:
● Article IV, Section 1(4), 1987 Constitution