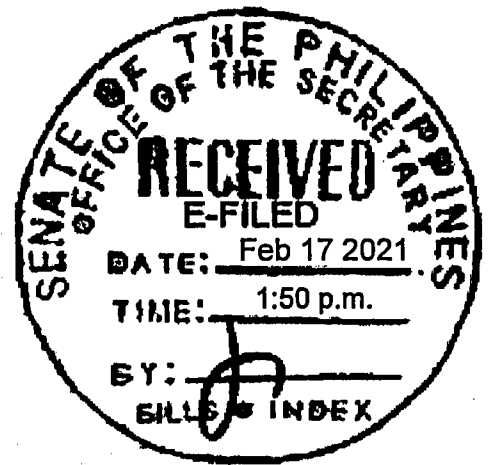


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE  
S.B. No. 2058

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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## **AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ANGEL KOUAME**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The passion and excitement for the game of hoops was first introduced in the Philippines, as part of the official school system in the 1800s by the American missionaries. The sport began to exponentially grow in popularity in the decades that followed, and has since been nurtured by the school system from primary school up to the collegiate level.

Student-athlete Kakou Ange Franck Williams Kouame has dominated the basketball scene, and earned the favor of the Filipino crowd, with his commitment and desire to continue living in the Philippines.

The 6-foot-10 Kouame averaged 12.5 points, 11.8 rebounds, 2.9 blocks and 1.4 assists to lead the Ateneo de Manila University Blue Eagles into a 16-0 sweep and three-peat title conquest in the UAAP Season 82. He was the Rookie of the Year in Season 81.

Kouame is seen to boost the country's preparations, and help advance the national team in the international basketball ranking in different tournaments.

He is expected to join the players of Gilas Pilipinas, and improve the national team's chances in the 2021 FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers. FIBA Internal Regulations allows just one naturalized player to suit up per national basketball team.

Kouame will be the third naturalized player to represent the Philippines, after Marcus Douthit and Andray Blatche. Douthit was instrumental in the Philippines' campaign in the 2013 FIBA Asia Championships, while Blatche played for Gilas Pilipinas in the 2014 and 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cups.

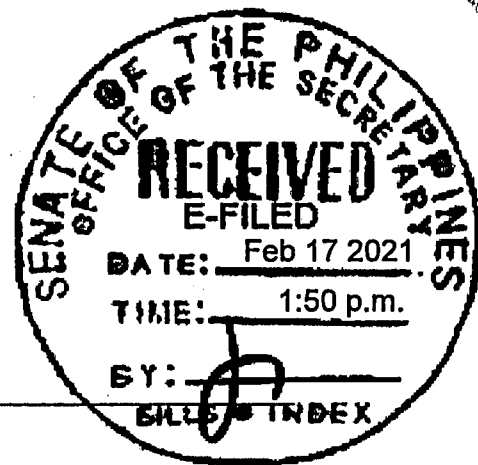
The commitment to go through the process of naturalization is more than the aspiration to represent the country in the game of basketball. Kouame has embraced the culture and the people, that the Philippines has become his home.

It is for the reasons stated above that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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Second Regular Session )



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SENATE  
S. No. 2058  
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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ANGELO KOUAME**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** Mr. Kakou Ange Franck Williams Kouame is hereby granted Philippine  
2 citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and  
3 obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic  
4 of the Philippines.  
5  
6 **SEC. 2.** After the taking by Mr. Kouame of his Oath of Allegiance before an officer  
7 duly authorized for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of  
8 Immigration, Mr. Angelo Kouame shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine  
9 citizenship.  
10  
11 **SEC. 3.** Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall  
12 issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Mr. Kakou Ange Franck Williams Kouame who  
13 shall thereupon enter into full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.  
14  
15 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette  
16 or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
17  
18  
19  
20 *Approved,*