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SENATE

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 23

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**INCLUDING THE TEN (10) ENLISTED MEN'S BARRIOS (EMBO) BARANGAYS IN THE TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE CITY OF TAGUIG AND MUNICIPALITY OF PATEROS IN ORDER NOT TO DISENFRANCHISE THE REGISTERED VOTERS THEREIN, AND CONFIRMING THE INCREASE TO TWELVE (12) OF THE NUMBER OF COUNCILORS IN EACH COUNCILOR DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF TAGUIG FOR PURPOSES OF FAIR AND EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION**

***"No taxation without representation"***

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8487 or the Charter of the City of Taguig states that the boundaries of the City is subject to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum on the existing boundary disputes or cases involving questions of territorial jurisdiction between the City of Taguig and the adjoining local government units –

**"Section 2. *The City of Taguig.*** – The Municipality of Taguig is hereby converted into a highly urbanized city to be known as the City of Taguig, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise the present territory of the Municipality of Taguig in the Metropolitan Manila area over which it has jurisdiction, bounded on the north by the City of Makati; on the northeast by the City of Pasig and the Municipality of Pateros; on the east by Laguna de Bay and the Municipality of Taytay; on the southeast by Laguna de Bay; on the south by the City of Muntinlupa; on the southwest by the City of Muntinlupa and the Municipality of Parañaque; on the west by Pasay City and the Municipality of Parañaque; and on the northwest by the City of Makati.

**The foregoing provision shall be without prejudice to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of existing boundary disputes or cases involving questions of territorial jurisdiction between the City of Taguig and the adjoining local government units.”**

**WHEREAS**, a similar provision is contained in Section 2 of R.A. No. 7854 or the Charter of the City of Makati –

**“SEC. 2. *The City of Makati.*** - The Municipality of Makati shall be converted into a highly urbanized city to be known as the City of Makati, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise the present territory of the Municipality of Makati in Metropolitan Manila Area over which it has jurisdiction bounded on the northeast by Pasig River and beyond by the City of Mandaluyong and the Municipality of Pasig; on the southeast by the municipalities of Pateros and Taguig; on the southwest by the City of Pasay and the Municipality of Taguig; and, on the northwest, by the City of Manila.

**The foregoing provision shall be without prejudice to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of existing boundary disputes or cases involving questions of territorial jurisdiction between the City of Makati and the adjoining local government units.”**

**WHEREAS**, after almost three decades of litigation, the boundary dispute between the City of Taguig and the City of Makati finally came to a close with the Supreme Court’s decision in G.R. No. 235316, promulgated on 01 December 2021;

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court ruled with finality that the Fort Bonifacio Military Reservation, consisting of parcels 3 and 4, Psu-2031, including the ten (10) EMBO barangays, namely barangays Pembo, Comembo, Cembo, South Cembo, West Rembo, East Rembo, Pitogo, Rizal, Post Proper Northside, and Post Proper Southside are confirmed to be part of the territory of the City of Taguig by legal right and historic title;

**WHEREAS**, as a necessary consequence of the Supreme Court’s decision, around three hundred thirty-six thousand eight hundred seventy-three (336,873) residents<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://psa.gov.ph/content/2020-census-population-and-housing-2020-cph-population-counts-declared-official-president>

from the City of Makati were transferred to the City of Taguig, around two hundred eight thousand seven hundred sixteen (208,716) of which are registered voters;

**WHEREAS**, with the said transfer, the City of Taguig's population has significantly increased to approximately one million three hundred thousand (1,300,000) residents;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Elections has declared that the residents of the ten (10) EMBO barangays can vote for national positions and local positions such as mayor, vice mayor, and members of the city council but not for a congressional representative in the 2025 midterm elections in the absence of a congressional act designating under which congressional districts the EMBO barangays belong;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Taguig has passed Ordinance No. 144 entitled, "An Ordinance Including the Ten (10) EMBO Barangays in the Two Legislative and Councilor Districts of Taguig, and Increasing the Number of Councilors in Each District to Twelve (12), for Purposes of Voting the Representatives to the House of Representatives and the Elective Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod";

**WHEREAS**, the said Ordinance provides that the EMBO Barangays shall be included in the first and second legislative and councilor districts of the City of Taguig as follows:

First Legislative and Councilor District:

1. Comembo;
2. Pembo; and
3. Rizal.

Second Legislative and Councilor District:

1. Cembo;
2. South Cembo;
3. East Rembo
4. West Rembo;
5. Pitogo;
6. Post Proper Northside; and
7. Post Proper Southside.

**WHEREAS**, the same Ordinance further provides that the number of city councilors to be elected in each district is increased from eight (8) to twelve (12);

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<sup>2</sup> Taguig City Integrated Survey System.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1227634>

**WHEREAS**, the right to suffrage is a fundamental right enshrined in Article V of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

**WHEREAS**, it is a basic democratic principle that taxation should not be imposed on citizens who do not have representation in the legislature, a doctrine established during the 18th century which holds that citizens should have a voice in governmental decisions;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, all residents of Taguig have the right to equal representation and those qualified have the fundamental right to exercise their right to suffrage;

**WHEREAS**, the people of the City of Taguig through their elected representatives have expressed their will that the residents of the EMBO barangays should be allowed to vote for their representatives in Congress and their Sangguniang Panlungsod;

**WHEREAS**, in response to the expression of will of the people of Taguig and to ensure that the 208,716 registered voters in the 10 EMBO barangays are not disenfranchised and the 336,873 residents are not left without representation in the House of Representatives, the EMBO barangays are hereby apportioned to the two (2) Legislative Districts of the City of Taguig and the Municipality of Pateros in the following manner –

The First Legislative District shall include:

1. Comembo;
2. Pembo; and
3. Rizal.

The Second Legislative District shall include:

1. Cembo;
2. South Cembo;
3. East Rembo;
4. West Rembo;
5. Pitogo;
6. Post Proper Northside; and
7. Post Proper Southside.

**WHEREAS**, the apportionment adheres to the Constitutional requirement that each legislative district shall comprise a contiguous, compact, and adjacent territory;

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/magna-carta-muse-and-mentor/no-taxation-without-representation.html>

**WHEREAS**, with the apportionment, the number of registered voters in the First Legislative District is increased from around two hundred fifty three thousand sixty five (253,065) to around three hundred forty one thousand three hundred forty three (341,343), while the number of registered voters in the Second Legislative District is increased from around two hundred fifty five thousand one hundred ninety five (255,195) to around three hundred seventy nine thousand five hundred thirty (379,530), or a difference of around thirty eight thousand one hundred eighty seven (38,187) only;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the increase by one third (1/3) in the population of the City of Taguig brought about by the inclusion of the EMBO barangays in its territory, equitable representation also dictates a proportional increase in the number of councilors per district in the City of Taguig;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to confirm the will of the people of the City of Taguig to increase the number of councilors to be elected in each councilor district of the city from the original eight (8) councilors per district to twelve (12) councilors per district;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, to include in the two (2) Legislative Districts of the City of Taguig and Municipality of Pateros the ten (10) Enlisted Men's Barrios (EMBO) barangays in the manner herein decreed in order not to disenfranchise the registered voters therein, and confirm the increase to twelve (12) of the number of councilors in each councilor district of the City of Taguig for purposes of equitable representation.

*Adopted,*



**ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO**