

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 MAR -9 P5:38

Senate

S. B. No. 3123

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The latest Census of Population (POPCEN) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in August 2007 indicated that the population of the Philippines has reached 88,574,614. With a growth rate of 2.04%, our population will even increase to 92.23 million by the end of the current year. Being a democratic and republican State, our very own people expect no less than proper representation in the government so that their voices will be heard, their concerns will be addressed and their rights will be protected.

The 1987 Constitution provides that "the House of Representatives shall be composed of not more than two hundred and fifty members, unless otherwise fixed by law, who shall be elected from legislative districts apportioned among the provinces, cities, and the Metropolitan Manila area in accordance with the number of their respective inhabitants, and on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio, and those who, as provided by law, shall be elected through a party-list system of registered national, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations," with the latter constituting twenty percentum of the total number of representatives. As such, 200 of the 250 seats in the Lower House are allocated to the legislative districts created by law and the remaining 50 to sectoral representation.

At present, however, there are already 220 district representatives and 31 representatives elected under the party-list system. Hence, there is a need to increase by law the allowable membership of the House of Representatives not only to correct the situation but, more importantly, to ensure the proper representation of our people in the Legislature. It would be important to note that this was also a recommendation made by the Supreme Court under *Serna vs. Comelec* (16 July 2008).

In consonance with the mandate of the Constitution and in the interest of proper democratic representation of the people, this bill therefore seeks to increase the number of membership in the House of Representatives from two hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty. Through this, there will be a stronger guarantee that the needs of our growing population will be effectively met and provided for.

In view of all these, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The membership of the House of Representatives is hereby
2 authorized to be increased from two hundred and fifty (250) to three hundred and fifty
3 (350), in compliance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 5 of the 1987
4 Constitution.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication
7 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

8
9 Approved ,