

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1951**

'18 AUG 28 P2:40

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**Introduced by Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO KITSON SORIANO KHO**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our national identity is inseparable from our history, and our intermingling with everyone from our neighbors within Asia to our Western colonizers makes the search for any pure, homogenous Filipino identity a futile exercise. If there is a Filipino identity, it must surely be evaluated beyond such things as the place of one's birth, or the color of one's skin, or the language of one's tongue. Just as millions of our countrymen fly out to find employment and live abroad, and eventually apply for and are granted citizenships that befit their situations, so are there foreigners who come to our nation and integrate themselves so deeply into our communities that they should by all counts be hailed as fellow Filipinos. If an individual, despite on paper being a foreigner, has found home among our people, and has contributed immensely to the development of a certain community, or the nation at large, then he is by all means a Filipino.

This is the reasoning behind this bill aiming to grant Filipino citizenship to Kitson Soriano Kho, thirty-three years of age, born 8 September 1984 and hailing from China. Though a Chinese citizen owing to his place of birth, Mr. Kho is Filipino by blood—his grandfather is Filipino, and they are based in Isabela. His father was even vested the Order of Lapu-Lapu by President Duterte himself. Outside of his ancestry, one could argue that his life's work has made him Filipino. He has spent the last twelve years in the Philippines, arriving in 2006 and staying here to fulfill his job as CEO of Am-Phil and UAA Kinming, companies that contribute greatly to Philippine economy, and create numerous job opportunities for Filipinos, with greater prospects of job creation ahead once their reclamation project in Manila Bay commences. Aside from his company's economic contributions, Mr. Kho has devoted himself to social causes as well, particularly to the eradication of the country's drug problem. Believing in the power of rehabilitation and second chances, he donated 700 million pesos to help fund the Northern Mindanao Wellness and Reintegration Center in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, a facility that is envisioned to provide care for recovering patients from all social classes. This is an invaluable contribution, and it only skims the charity work that Mr. Kho has involved himself in. Mr. Kho, in helping to uplift the lives of countless Filipinos, has proven his love for this country and its people, thus making him worthy of the privilege to be granted Filipino citizenship.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

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

1           **Section 1.** Mr. Kitson Soriano Kho is hereby granted Philippine citizenship  
2 with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations  
3 appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the  
4 Philippines.

5           **Sec. 2.** Upon taking his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized  
6 for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration,  
7 Mr. Kitson Soriano Kho shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine  
8 citizenship.

9           **Sec. 3.** Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of  
10 Immigration shall issue Mr. Kitson Soriano Kho his Certificate of Naturalization.

11           **Sec. 4.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in at least  
12 two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**