

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 545

Submitted by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights on DEC 17 2018.

Re: House Bill No. 8380 taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1778

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Richard J. Gordon

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, to which was referred **House Bill No. 8380**, introduced by Representatives Umali and Leachon, entitled:

"AN ACT

GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO HANS GUENTER SCHOOF"

and taking into consideration **Senate Bill No. 1778**, introduced by Senator Pimentel III, entitled:

"AN ACT

GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO HANS GUENTER SCHOOF"

has considered the same and has the honor to report House Bill No. 8380 back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1778.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairperson



RICHARD J. GORDON

Vice Chairperson



PANFILO M. LACSON

Members

GRACE POE

EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO

FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



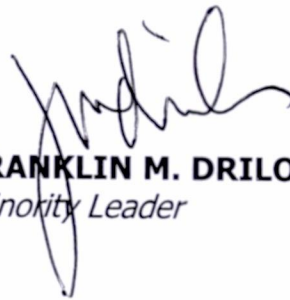
RISA HONTIVEROS

Ex Officio Members

RALPH G. RECTO
President Pro Tempore



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Majority Leader
Member, Committee on Justice and Human Rights



FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minority Leader

VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8380

BY REPRESENTATIVES UMALI AND LEACHON, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 887

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO HANS
GUENTER SCHOOF

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

1 SECTION 1. Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof is hereby granted
2 Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and
3 prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant
4 thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the
5 Philippines.

6 SEC. 2. Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof shall take the Oath of
7 Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly
8 authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be
9 registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

10 SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the
11 Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization
12 to Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof who shall thereupon enter into the
13 full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

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

Approved.

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Second Regular Session)



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RECEIVED

SENATE
S. B. No. 1778

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
HANS GUENTER SCHOOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof, a 69-year old German citizen and businessman.

Hans was born on July 31, 1947 in Wiesbaden, Germany. In 1986, he came to the Philippines and married a Filipina; he later legally adopted his wife's two Filipino children. He was granted a Special Retiree's Visa in 1991 that he holds until today.

Mr. Schoof founded in 1987 the Old Heidelberg Restaurant, which he operated until November 1995 at Soldado Street in Ermita and at Nakpil Street corner Bocobo Street in Malate. At its peak, the restaurant was a popular destination and melting pot of Filipinos and foreign nationals alike. Hans, a lover of the history of our national hero, Jose Rizal, used the place as a platform to recreate the experience of Rizal's stay in Heidelberg, Germany.

In 1987, Hans was invited to join The Order of the Knights of Rizal. He was knighted by then Associate Supreme Court Justice Conrado Vasquez. His deep interest and fondness for Rizal, as well as his exquisite work with the Order, consecutively catapulted him to the ranks of Exchequer, Supreme Councilor, and finally, Deputy Supreme Commander – the highest post held by a foreigner in the organization. As part of the Supreme Council of the Order, he was instrumental in the

formation of international chapters, all the while being based in the Philippines. For his contributions to Rizal's memory, rare pieces of Rizal memorabilia and Philippine history have been donated to him. In the early part of the 1990s, Hans financed the renovation of the Rizal Park in Manila City. He also co-published the only German translation to Rizal's novel, *El Filibusterismo*, and financed the erection of Rizal statues in Peru and in the provincial capital of Bohol.

In 1995, Hans and his family established a home in Upper Laya, Baclayon, Bohol, where he continues to reside to this day after having established the Peacock Garden Resort. This leisure park has been recognized by the popular online review site TripAdvisor as the Top 4 hotel in the Philippines in 2016 and 2017 and has been a Traveller's Choice Award winner since 2012. Of the hundreds of staff employed in Peacock, all but one are Filipinos, reinforcing Hans' pride in Filipino service and his commitment to providing adequate employment in Bohol. The establishment is currently the largest private employer in Baclayon.

Aside from this, Hans has also contributed extensively to the community in Baclayon. As an active and well-known philanthropist and patron of the arts and Rizal history, he was appointed consultant for tourism by then Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado from 2001 to 2010. He was likewise designated as head of Prime Movers, a multi-stakeholder organization that devises strategies and solutions for Bohol's challenges. In all his endeavors, Hans has made sure that Bohol tourism and the livelihood of its local residents flourish.

For his unwavering efforts, the Sangguniang Bayan of Baclayon passed Resolution No. 2007-171, recognizing Hans as an adopted son of Baclayon. The local government unit noted his philanthropic deeds and his status as the highest taxpayer in the locale. In 2009, Hans was given by the City of Tagbilaran the distinguished award of merit for his rare achievement and contributions in the field of business and tourism, and for breaking cultural barriers by embracing our country and people as his very own. Later, in 2011, Hans was declared an adopted son of Tagbilaran City.

Hans has donated generously to schools and educational programs, health and medical services, and various local government units. This includes financial contributions to the Bikes for the Philippines Foundation (BPF), the only bicycle organization that operates nationwide. BPF is currently one of the partners in the Department of

Education's Pedals and Paddles project, which provides bicycles to needful children to facilitate their travel to and from school. Hans has also given aid to the Bohol Local Development Foundation (BLDF), an organization founded by another Baclayon resident, Dr. Nestor Pestelos. BLDF is committed to enhancing the social assets of Bohol through education and livelihood programs.

Since his arrival in the Philippines in 1986, Hans has rarely left the country as even then, he was already certain of his desire to remain here for the rest of his life.

With more than three decades of living with and helping Filipinos, Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof has more than proven his genuine and sincere intention to stay for good in the Philippines and to continue serving its interests and its people.

For these considerations, the passage of this bill is earnest sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1778

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

1 AN ACT
2 GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
3 HANS GUENTER SCHOOF

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

4 SECTION 1. Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof is hereby granted
5 Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as
6 well the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the
7 Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

8 SEC. 2. After the taking by Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof of his Oath
9 of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, and the
10 registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Mr. Hans
11 Guenter Schoof shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine
12 citizenship.

13 SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of
14 Immigration shall forthwith issue Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof's Certificate
15 of Naturalization.

16 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

18 . *Approved,*