


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

24 APR 29 P 6:05

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S. B. No. 2646

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO BENNIE FRANCOIS
BOATWRIGHT III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bennie Francois Boatwright III, a 27-year old American-born basketball player who currently plays for the San Miguel Beermen of the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), has endeared himself to this basketball-loving nation with his combination of explosive athleticism and shooting touch. At 6 foot 10 inches, Boatwright possesses a unique skill set that makes him formidable both offensively and defensively as he has both the ability to stretch the floor and be dominant in the post.

Born on July 13, 1996 in California to Bennie Boatwright Sr. and Rebeca Monje, Boatwright III played college basketball for the University of Southern California (USC) Trojans. His performance throughout his stint as a Trojan earned him a spot in the All-Pac-12 which is a distinction given to the best players in the conference after the season. He then played for several teams both in and outside the United States of America including the Memphis Hustle and the Fort Wayne Mad Ants under the National Basketball Association's (NBA) G League. He also had a stint with the Libertadores de Queretaro in Mexico and is currently affiliated with the Shanxi Loongs of the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA).

However, his stay with the San Miguel Beermen during the PBA 2023-2024 Commissioner's Cup was what Filipinos know and love him most for as his performance

was incredibly instrumental in the Beermen's championship run. In fact, in one of the games during the said conference, Boatwright III scored 51 points. Boatwright III has also embraced the love and support of Filipinos and has expressed a strong willingness to continue playing for the Philippines not only in the PBA but also in the world's stage which would - in turn - be very beneficial to Philippine basketball as we continue to improve our global standing.

Hence, in view of the foregoing, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Grant of Philippine Citizenship to Bennie Francois***
2 ***Boatwright III.*** – Mr. Bennie Francois Boatwright III is hereby granted Philippine
3 citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and
4 obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic
5 of the Philippines.

6 **SEC. 2. *Oath of Allegiance.*** – Mr. Bennie Francois Boatwright III shall take
7 the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly
8 authorized for this purpose. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau
9 of Immigration.

10 **SEC. 3. *Certificate of Naturalization and Enjoyment of Philippine***
11 ***Citizenship.*** – Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration
12 shall forthwith issue Mr. Bennie Francois Boatwright III's Certificate of Naturalization,
13 who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

14 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication
15 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,