

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

24 JUL 23 P2:20

RECEIVED BY

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2749

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 8, Article VII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"SECTION 8. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall then act as President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified.

The Congress shall, by law, provide who shall serve as President in case of death, permanent disability, or resignation of the Acting President. He shall serve until the President or the Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified, and be subject to the same restrictions of powers and disqualifications as the Acting President."

The principle of ensuring continuity of government and safeguarding national leadership during critical events is paramount to the stability and resilience of any democratic nation. Ensuring continuity of executive leadership is crucial for maintaining governance and national security.

This bill underscores the importance of national preparedness and resilience in safeguarding national interest and democratic processes. By establishing clear procedures for presidential succession, the functions of the government can continue under any possible circumstances.

This proactive measure ensures that in the event of a catastrophic incident, capable leadership remains intact to sustain and guide the country through challenges. By enacting this bill into law, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding the Filipino people and maintaining stability in times of crisis.

This bill was originally filed by Senator Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson in the first regular session of the 18th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

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

Section 1. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall serve as the Acting President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified.

Sec. 2. In the event of permanent disability, death, removal from office or resignation of the Acting President before the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified, the following elected and appointed officers of the Republic of the Philippines and who is not under any disability to discharge the powers and duties of the Office of the President shall act as President in the following order:

(1) the most senior Senator based on the length of service in the Senate or if there be none, or in the event of his removal, death, resignation or of his inability to act as President,

(2) the most senior Representative based on the length of service in the House of Representatives or if there be none, or in the event of his removal, death, resignation or of his inability to act as President,

(3) the member of the Cabinet designated by the President.

Prior to any public or private activity, event or function with the attendance of the President, Vice President and other high-ranking officials which may include those mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the President shall designate a

1 member of the Cabinet to be sequestered in a secret and secure location. In the
2 event of an extraordinary circumstance resulting in the death or permanent
3 disability of the President, Vice President and the officials mentioned in Sections 1
4 and 2 of this Act, the designated member of the cabinet shall act as the President.

5
6 **Sec. 3.** Official actions of the Acting President pertaining to the day-to-day
7 operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall remain
8 effective unless revoked by the elected President within ninety (90) days from his
9 or her assumption or reassumption of office.

10
11 **Sec. 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,