


5 MAY 24 ATO:59

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }  
OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
First Regular Session }

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 26

Submitted by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights on 24 MAY 2005.

Re : Senate Bill No. 1952, taking into consideration House Bill No. 2659.

Recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors : Senators Arroyo, Enrile, Madrigal and Revilla, Jr.

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**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committee on Justice and Human Rights to which was referred Senate Bill No. 1952, introduced by Senators Enrile, Madrigal and Revilla, Jr., entitled:

**“AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFOUR”**

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved without amendment, taking into consideration House Bill No. 2659, introduced by Representatives Agbayani, Ablan and Datumanong, entitled:

**“AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFOUR”**

Respectfully submitted:

  
**JOKER P. ARROYO**  
Chairman

*Committee on Justice and Human Rights*

Members:

  
**RAMON "BONG" REVILLA, JR.**

  
**"COMPAÑERA" PIA S. CAYETANO**

  
**RICHARD J. GORDON**

  
**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**

  
**SERGIO OSMEÑA III**

  
**JUAN PONCE ENRILE**

  
**ALFREDO S. LIM**

  
**M.A. MADRIGAL**

Ex-Officio Members :

  
**JUAN M. FLAVIER**  
*President Pro-Tempore*


  
**FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN**  
*Majority Leader*

*may interpellate:*  
  
**AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.**  
*Minority Leader*

**Hon. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*President*  
*Senate of the Philippines*

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

5 MAR -8 P3:52

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1952

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Introduced by **SENATORS JUAN PONCE ENRILE, JAMBY MADRIGAL,  
RAMON "Bong" REVILLA, JR.**

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine Citizenship to Mahmoud A.M. Asfour.

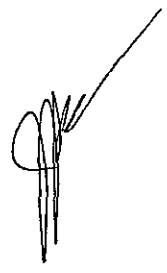
Under Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Congress is empowered to grant Philippine Citizenship to foreigners who have rendered outstanding service to the country and people.

Mr. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour who came to the Philippines from Riyadh in 1984, has been a resident of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya for twenty-one years, during which he has married a Filipina – the former Zenaida C. Baniaga, and reared three children namely Abdallah, 16 years old, Abdel Hakim, 14 years old and Abeer, 6 years old, all Filipino citizens and enrolled in public schools. He preferred to live in the country with his family because of his desire that his children imbibe the rural Filipino culture, and being a strong advocate of Dr. Jose Rizal's values and teachings, Mr. Asfour has conformed himself and his family with the Filipino way of life filled with compassion, kindness and integrity.

He has demonstrated unsolicited generosity and unselfish service to various groups in terms of civic and community based projects such as medical assistance for major and minor operations for indigents in Casal and its neighboring barangays and other places in Nueva Vizcaya, free tuition fees and monthly allowance for deserving pupils and students, renovation and painting of various churches, book donations, renovation of elementary school buildings including amenities, building homes for the homeless and digging water wells in different parts of Nueva Vizcaya, placement jobs for overseas workers and assistance for the release of some overseas workers jailed in Saudi Arabia.

His support to various programs includes but not limited to economic, medical, athletic, religious, educational, livelihood, civic and social undertakings and for such purpose, he has to use personal and family resources to the tune of millions of pesos annually.

He has shown inspiring and unwavering faith in the greatness of the Filipino and has chosen to identify himself with the country by honorably and vigorously promoting a better living standard for the people in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, particularly his support to a government program called "Assistance Council for Vizcayano Overseas Workers," for which he became the Vice Chairman. ~~Cash incentives were also provided to honor students and deserving teachers~~ and facilitated the building of livelihood centers



on lots he has donated. This livelihood projects include training programs for food processing, cosmetics and beauty training, building a beauty parlor and food processing hall and supplying the project with machines, materials and tools.

He has shown exemplary dedication, concern and deep appreciation for the Filipinos when in 1991 during the Gulf War, he helped more than a thousand Overseas Filipino Workers and their families who fled from Kuwait to Riyadh by accommodating them in his house for one to three months, providing them every possible assistance in the form of food, medical services and even airline tickets for the least fortunate Filipinos to return to their homes safely.

Right now he is in the final stage of the construction of a Rizal Shrine which is the biggest and tallest in the whole country. The shrine is housed in a 7.5 hectare complex which has provisions for a children's playground, livelihood and tourist facilities, conference lounge and other amenities. The proposed shrine is on top of a mountain which has a panoramic view of the beautiful scenery of different municipalities of Nueva Vizcaya. Under the shrine, he constructed three dental, eye and physiotherapy clinics for indigents. The Shrine is surrounded by a huge National Heroes fence with 14 pedestals connected to high-tech national heroes video and audio library to service children and the youth. The sitting capacity around the shrine is 2,000 persons. It is surrounded by a parking, fountain and recreation facilities. In other locations of his huge project, he is constructing a Rizal High School, a sports complex with a sitting capacity of 1,980. He constructed also three large pavilions for official and social gatherings, for conferences, camping and different municipal/provincial activities.

Various individuals, civic groups and local and provincial government officials of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, like Governor Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Vice Governor Jose V. Gambito and SP Members, the Municipal Mayor and Members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Bayombong, different churches, among others, have manifested their strong support and endorsement to the grant to Mr. Asfour of Philippine citizenship.

The Nueva Vizcaya Sangguniang Panlalawigan through Resolution numbered 2001-1126 dated June 8, 2001 has adopted Mr. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour a son of Nueva Vizcaya as a fitting recognition of the exemplary services he has rendered and the outstanding contributions he has given to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya. Moreover, he was conferred the Third Degree as Knight Commander of the Knights of Rizal for his devotion to and willingness to propagate the noble teachings and ideals of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. On August 22, 2004 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of Rizal Award in recognition of his outstanding services to the Filipinos since 1971 and for continuously spreading the teachings of our national hero even before his migration to the Philippines. Currently he is serving the Order of the Knights of Rizal as the Deputy Area Commander for Nueva Vizcaya and Isabella provinces. He was conferred a Degree of Doctor in Pedagogy (Honors Causal) by the Nueva Vizcaya and the teachings of our national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal locally and abroad.

Thus, in recognition of his valuable services to the Philippines, especially to the Overseas Filipino Workers and to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, it is the sense of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines to grant him Philippine Citizenship.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
JUAN PONCE ENRILE  
Senator

  
JAMBY MADRIGAL  
Senator

  
RAMON "Bong" REVILLA, JR.  
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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SENATE  
**1952**  
S.B. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **SENATORS JUAN PONCE ENRILE, JAMBY MADRIGAL,  
RAMON "Bong" REVILLA, JR.**

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AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFUR

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

SECTION 1. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

After the taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, Mahmoud A.M. Asfour shall enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship.

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

*Approved,*

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES  
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
*First Regular Session*



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2659

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BY REPRESENTATIVES AGBAYANI, ABLAN AND DATUMANONG

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### AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFOUR

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Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour is hereby granted Philippine  
2 citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant  
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4           After the taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the  
5 Republic of the Philippines, Mahmoud A.M. Asfour shall enter into the  
6 full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

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

Approved,