

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

NOV 06

P. S. Res. No. 580

Introduced by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile

**A RESOLUTION
TO CONVENE CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO OR REVISIONS
OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, the present Constitution adopted in 1987 sought to re-establish the basic legal democratic framework to govern the Filipino nation;

WHEREAS, almost two decades of our nation's experience under the 1987 Constitution has yielded meaningful lessons on its inherent weaknesses and limitations which, taken collectively, have hindered our growth and stability as a democracy and our economic advancement as a nation, and has undermined the ability of our political institutions to effectively perform their constitutional duties;

WHEREAS, over the last twenty years, the Philippines has suffered a series of dangerous political upheavals that has put to test and continues to threaten the very foundation of our political system;

WHEREAS, from the political turmoil, social disarray and unrest that has challenged the leaders of this nation and rendered all efforts to attain national unity futile, there has emerged a strong call to adopt a parliamentary form of government to replace the presidential form which the Philippines has had for more than a century;

WHEREAS, in the raging debate over preserving or discarding the present system of government, the people have likewise voiced out their grave concern for the deterioration of our peace and order situation, the inefficiency or lack of delivery of basic social services, the immobilizing gridlock between the Executive and Legislative branches of government, and the failure of the system to exact accountability from public officials;

WHEREAS, despite positive steps undertaken which have contributed in improving the country's economic performance, the Philippines remains shackled in its quest for accelerated and full development;

WHEREAS, the economic provisions of the Constitution impose limitations which have invariably stood in the way of achieving greater development and there is a need to revisit the basis, wisdom and rationale underlying these limitations;

WHEREAS, our present national condition and the combined effects of political instability, economic roadblocks and abject poverty have given rise to a legitimate clamor among our people to call on their leaders and representatives to consider radical changes in the Constitution, foremost of which is the shift to a parliamentary system of government, as a necessary step to move the country forward to attain their common aspiration for a peaceful, stable and progressive Republic;

WHEREAS, given the tenuous and volatile situation in the country, it is incumbent upon the leaders of this nation to harness their collective energies and act with resolve and dispatch,

arrest the deepening crisis and provide the people with the legal, peaceful and non-violent means to achieve the political and social change they demand and deserve;

WHEREAS, having been imbued under Article XVII Section 1 of the Constitution with the power to propose any amendment to or revision of the fundamental charter of the land, Congress must open itself as an available democratic forum for seriously exploring, deliberating and crystallizing such amendments or revision to be presented to the Filipino people who will ultimately decide its fate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That in accordance with Article XVII Section 1 subparagraph 1 of the Constitution, the Senate of the Philippines together with the House of Representatives, convene as a Constituent Assembly to propose amendments to or revision of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

Adopted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "R. Duterte", written in a cursive script.