



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2274

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Honorable Aurelio *Dong* D. Gonzales, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rename Clark International Airport located in Clark Freeport Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

The Clark International Airport forms part of the former Clark Air Base operated by the United States Air Force until its closure in 1991. By virtue of Republic Act No. 7227, otherwise known as the "*Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992*," President Fidel V. Ramos converted Clark Air Base into Clark Special Economic Zone and established the Clark International Airport Corporation to manage the airfield facilities. Clark Air Base was so named in honor of Major Harold M. Clark of the U.S. Army Signal Corps who died in a seaplane crash in the Panama Canal in 1919.

Resolution No. 07-08, S. 2001, which was issued in July 2001 by the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC) board, christened Clark International Airport as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in commemoration of former President Diosdado Macapagal's 91st birthday. In 2003, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo officially referred to DMIA as such through Executive Order No. 193, S. 2003.

President Diosdado Macapagal was the ninth President of the Republic of the Philippines, born in Lubao, Pampanga and the first *Kapampangan* president. He was revered as a statesman, champion of the poor, an intellectual, nationalist and dedicated public servant. His legacy includes land reform, free enterprise, social welfare programs, a moral regeneration program to eradicate graft and corruption and abolition of tenancy. He survived poverty, hunger and hardship and persevered to earn the degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Economics. He also topped the Bar Examinations in 1936.

In 2011, the CIAC Board during its 10th Special Board Meeting approved a resolution restoring DMIA's former name, Clark International Airport. Equipped with modern amenities, it now functions as one of the biggest aviation complexes in Asia. It caters to passengers from the provinces of Northern and Central Luzon.

Considering the vital role of this airport in aviation and in the international air transportation community, it is only fitting that it shall be named after a Filipino of unquestionable integrity with a sterling legacy and incomparable honesty. This bill proposes to rename Clark International Airport as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in honor of former President Diosdado Macapagal, one of the most respected Filipino leaders.

Moreover, there is insistent public demand, particularly from the private and business sectors outside of Metro Manila, for the improvement and development of the Clark International Airport, which has CRK as its international code. Presently, CRK caters only to a handful of airlines such as Philippines Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Dragon Air, Emirates and Qatar Airways to name a few. Claims from these sectors would want CRK to be as functional as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, catering to all commercial airlines. The ultimate goal is the decongestion of air and street traffic in Metro Manila.

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


AURELIO BONGD. GONZALES, JR.



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AN ACT

**RENAMING CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOCATED IN
ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA AS DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

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

SECTION. 1. The Clark International Airport located in Angeles City,
Pampanga is hereby renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.

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

Approved,