

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 20



Introduced by: DEPUTY SPEAKER HENRY S. OAMINAL

JOINT RESOLUTION
CONVENING BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS INTO A CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO, OR
REVISION OF, THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR
THE ELECTION OF SENATORS BY REGION BASED ON PROPORTIONAL
REPRESENTATION

WHEREAS, Section 2, Article VI of the Constitution explicitly provides that "The Senate shall be composed of twenty-four Senators who shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the Philippines, xxx";

WHEREAS, this provision of the Constitution inadvertently puts in jeopardy the essence of representative democracy simply for the reason that only those popular candidates, and those with vast resources and political machineries managed to get elected to the Senate depriving even those candidates with impressive qualifications, especially those who belong to the marginalized sectors, and from thinly populated regions;

WHEREAS, the political turmoil in some parts of Mindanao may be attributable to the perceived severe lack of representation at the national level and these political and economic situations necessitate amendments to the Constitution in order to make it more responsive to the requirements of the current time;

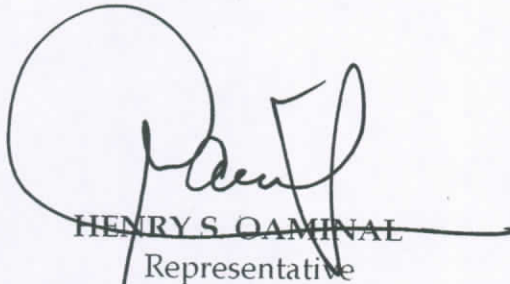
WHEREAS, the snail-paced socio-economic growth and political instability in some remote parts of our country may be attributable to the highly centralized nature of our government where gargantuan powers are lodged in Imperial Manila;

WHEREAS, the establishment of a mechanism for the election of Senators by region is widely seen to cure the severe lack of political representation at the national level, and possibly a key in finally achieving the most elusive peace in Mindanao since under the new system, representative democracy will find a secured place in the hallowed hall of the Senate, where all regions have reserve seats effectively giving equal representations to all the people from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the new system of electing Senators requires amendments to the Constitution, and convening both Houses of Congress into a Constituent Assembly is the fastest and least expensive mode of amending the Constitution: *Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines in joint session assembled, by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of all its members of each House voting separately, to convene both Houses of Congress into a constituent assembly for the purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution to provide a mechanism for the election of Senators by region based on proportional representation.

Adopted,



HENRY S. OAMINAL
Representative
Second District, Misamis Occidental