

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 62

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on

Re : **House Resolution No. 408**

Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Bill No. 921.

Sponsors : Representatives Romulo and Fernando

OCT 01 2019

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture to which was referred House Bill No. 921 introduced by Representative Bayani F. Fernando, entitled:

**AN ACT
TO PROMOTE A NEW PILIPINO GESTURE OF GOODWILL AND
PRAISE**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 408,
entitled:

**A RESOLUTION
URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE
SIMPLE ACT OF GRACEFULLY LAYING THE PALM OF THE
RIGHT HAND OVER THE CENTER OF THE CHEST WITH A
SIMULTANEOUS SLIGHT HEAD NOD AS A CUSTOMARY
FILIPINO GESTURE OF GOODWILL, PRAISE AND RESPECT**

be adopted in substitution of House Bill No. 921, with Representatives Fernando and Romulo as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roman T. Romulo".

ROMAN T. ROMULO

Chairperson

Committee on Basic Education and Culture

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. **408**
(In substitution of House Bill No. 921)

Introduced by Representatives Fernando and Romulo

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE THE SIMPLE ACT OF
GRACEFULLY LAYING THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND OVER THE CENTER
OF THE CHEST WITH A SIMULTANEOUS SLIGHT HEAD NOD AS A
CUSTOMARY FILIPINO GESTURE OF GOODWILL, PRAISE, AND RESPECT

1 WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
2 that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill
3 health consciousness among them";
4

5 WHEREAS, the medical profession has established that the traditional, well-
6 meaning, and innocent gesture of handshake transmits communicable diseases and
7 is a risk to one's health;
8

9 WHEREAS, a better alternative to the traditional gesture of handshake is the
10 simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest
11 with a simultaneous slight head nod;
12

13 WHEREAS, placing the hand over the chest is a universal gesture of good faith
14 coming from the heart, while a nod is a traditional Filipino gesture of respect;
15

16 WHEREAS, the Philippine Government is urged to promote this gesture of
17 goodwill and praise so that this will become a customary practice of all Filipinos;
18

19 WHEREAS, all government agencies are encouraged to promote this practice
20 in their respective offices and areas of jurisdiction, with the Philippine Information
21 Agency (PIA) taking the lead in the wider dissemination and promotion of this Filipino
22 gesture;
23

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to
25 urge the Philippine Government to promote the simple act of gracefully laying the palm
26 of the right hand over the center of the chest with a simultaneous slight head nod as
27 a customary Filipino gesture of goodwill, praise, and respect;
28

29 *Resolved, further,* That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the Office of the
30 President.
31

32 *Adopted,*

**House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

House Resolution No. 408
(In substitution of House Bill No. 921)

As adopted by the Committee on 18 September 2019

**PROMOTING A NEW FILIPINO GESTURE
OF GOODWILL AND PRAISE**

Introduced by: REPS. FERNANDO AND ROMULO

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION & CULTURE (Primary)

Committee Chairperson: REP. ROMAN T. ROMULO

OBJECTIVES:

- To adopt a new Filipino gesture as an alternative to the traditional handshake
- To promote health consciousness among citizenry

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Urges the Philippine Government to promote the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest with a simultaneous slight head nod as a customary Filipino gesture of goodwill, praise, and respect

RELATED LAW:

- The 1987 Philippine Constitution