

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5951



INTRODUCED BY HON. ROBERTO "ROBBIE" V. PUNO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

His story is much like some of our own sports icons. He grew up poor, persevered, honed his craft, and is now a powerhouse in his game.

Angelo "Ange" Kouame has played basketball for the Ateneo de Manila University team since 2018. He has been instrumental in giving the Blue Eagles two of their three back-to-back-to-back championships in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) in the past three seasons.

Hailing from the Ivory Coast, Mr. Kouame took the risk of going to a country halfway around the world when he went the Philippines in 2016 to try out for the Blue Eagles, leaving behind his mother and five siblings. Since then the 6-foot-ten Ivorian center has made the Philippines his home and has quickly made a name for himself in collegiate basketball.

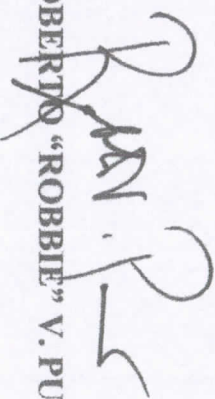
Coach Tab Baldwin of the Ateneo Blue Eagles has nothing but praises for Ange. "There was first of course, the wonderful character in the young man. He's just a guy that exudes humility and has a great desire to achieve," Coach Baldwin said in an interview in 2018. "He's such a great young man that I don't think anybody really thinks that we're having work when we're spending time with Ange. It's just easy to do and the reward from him in terms of his willingness to listen, his friendship, his openness to teaching," Baldwin added.

Indeed, Ange's passion for his basketball is evident every time he is on the court. This much was evident in his hand in the recent 16-0 sweep for the Blue Eagles in the 82nd Season of the UAAP men's basketball. From having little knowledge of basketball back in the Ivory Coast, Mr. Kouame has definitely shown that he is thriving on Philippine shores.

Taking cue from other countries, the Philippines has been allowing naturalized athletes to play for its national teams as a way to improve its global rankings. And now we are urging Congress to naturalize yet another player in the person of Mr. Kouame.

Ange would be a great addition to Philippine basketball and the Philippine sporting community at large. And while he may not have been a Filipino by birth, he embodies the Filipino values of perseverance, determination, and dedication to his craft.

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


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AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ANGELO KOUAME

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

Section 1. Mr. Angelo Koaume is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. After the taking by Mr. Koaume of his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Mr. Angelo Kouame shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall forthwith issue Mr. Angelo Kouame's Certificate of Naturalization.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,