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## REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress First Regular Session

House Bill No.

Introduced by Rep. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to rename Clark International Airport located in Clark 25Freeport Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga as DiosdadoMacapagal International 26Airport.

The Clark International Airport forms part of the former Clark Air Base 29 operated by the United States Air Force until its closure in 1991. By virtue of 30 Republic Act No. 7227, otherwise known as the "Bases Conversion and 31 Development Act of 1992," President Fidel V. Ramos converted Clark Air Base 32 into Clark Special Economic Zone and established the Clark International 33 Airport Corporation to manage the airfield facilities. Clark Air Base was so 34 named in honor of Major Harold M. Clark of the U.S. Army Signal Corps who 35 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 38Clark International Airport Corporation(CIAC) board, christened Clark 39International Airport as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA)in 40commemoration of former President Diosdado Macapagal's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. In 412003, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo officially referred to DMIA as such 42through Executive Order No. 193, S. 2003.

President Diosdado Macapagal was the ninth President of the Republic of 46the Philippines, born in Lubao, Pampanga and the first *Kapampangan* president.

1He was revered as a statesman, champion of the poor, an intellectual, nationalist 2 and dedicated public servant. His legacy includes land reform, free enterprise, 3 social welfare programs, a moral regeneration program to eradicate graft and 4 corruption and abolition of tenancy. He survived poverty, hunger and hardship 5 and persevered to earn the degrees of Doctor of Laws and Doctor of Economics. 6 He also topped the Bar Examinations in 1936.

In 2011, the CIAC Board during its 10<sup>th</sup> Special Board Meeting approved 9a resolution restoring DMIA's former name, Clark International Airport. 10Equipped with modern amenities, it now functions as one of the biggest aviation 11complexes in Asia. It caters to passengers from the provinces of Northern and 12Central Luzon

Considering the vital role of this airport in aviation and in the 15international air transportation community, it is only fitting that it shall be 16named after a Filipino of unquestionable integrity with a sterling legacy and 17incomparable honesty. This bill proposes to rename Clark International Airport 18as Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in honor of former President 19Diosdado Macapagal, one of the most respected Filipino leaders.

Moreover, there is insistent public demand, particularly from the private 22and business sectors outside of Metro Manila, for the improvement and 23development of the Clark International Airport, which has CRK as its 24international code. Presently, CRK caters only to a handful of airlines such as 25Philippines Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Dragon Air, Emirates and Qatar Airways to 26name a few. Claims from these sectors would want CRK to be as functional as 27the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, catering to all commercial airlines. 28The 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 D. GODZALES, JR.
Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Pampanga

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23	AN ACT RENAMING CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOCATED IN ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA AS DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
25 26 27	Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:
28	GEOTION 1 The Clark International Airport located in Angeles City,
30	Pampanga is hereby renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport.
33	SECTION 3. The Department of Transportation shall place appropriate
32	emarkers in the airport and its facilities and shall issue the necessary orders and
3	scirculars to implement the provisions of this Act

This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication

35in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

36 Approved,

SEC. 2.