

on lots he has donated. This livelihood projects include training programs for food processing, cosmetics and beauty training, building a beauty parlor and food processing hall and supplying the project with machines, materials and tools.

He has shown exemplary dedication, concern and deep appreciation for the Filipinos when in 1991 during the Gulf War, he helped more than a thousand Overseas Filipino Workers and their families who fled from Kuwait to Riyadh by accommodating them in his house for one to three months, providing them every possible assistance in the form of food, medical services and even airline tickets for the least fortunate Filipinos to return to their homes safely.

Right now he is in the final stage of the construction of a Rizal Shrine which is the biggest and tallest in the whole country. The shrine is housed in a 7.5 hectare complex which has provisions for a children's playground, livelihood and tourist facilities, conference lounge and other amenities. The proposed shrine is on top of a mountain which has a panoramic view of the beautiful scenery of different municipalities of Nueva Vizcaya. Under the shrine, he constructed three dental, eye and physiotherapy clinics for indigents. The Shrine is surrounded by a huge National Heroes fence with 14 pedestals connected to high-tech national heroes video and audio library to service children and the youth. The sitting capacity around the shrine is 2,000 persons. It is surrounded by a parking, fountain and recreation facilities. In other locations of his huge project, he is constructing a Rizal High School, a sports complex with a sitting capacity of 1,980. He constructed also three large pavilions for official and social gatherings, for conferences, camping and different municipal/provincial activities.

Various individuals, civic groups and local and provincial government officials of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, like Governor Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Vice Governor Jose V. Gambito and SP Members, the Municipal Mayor and Members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Bayombong, different churches, among others, have manifested their strong support and endorsement to the grant to Mr. Asfour of Philippine citizenship.

The Nueva Vizcaya Sangguniang Panlalawigan through Resolution numbered 2001-1126 dated June 8, 2001 has adopted Mr. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour a son of Nueva Vizcaya as a fitting recognition of the exemplary services he has rendered and the outstanding contributions he has given to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya. Moreover, he was conferred the Third Degree as Knight Commander of the Knights of Rizal for his devotion to and willingness to propagate the noble teachings and ideals of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. On August 22, 2004 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of Rizal Award in recognition of his outstanding services to the Filipinos since 1971 and for continuously spreading the teachings of our national hero even before his migration to the Philippines. Currently he is serving the Order of the Knights of Rizal as the Deputy Area Commander for Nueva Vizcaya and Isabella provinces. He was conferred a Degree of Doctor in Pedagogy (Honors Causal) by the Nueva Vizcaya and the teachings of our national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal locally and abroad.

Thus, in recognition of his valuable services to the Philippines, especially to the Overseas Filipino Workers and to the Province of Nueva Vizcaya, it is the sense of the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines to grant him Philippine Citizenship.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senator


JAMBY MADRIGAL
Senator


RAMON "Bong" REVILLA, JR.
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

5 MAR -8 P3:52

SENATE

1952

S.B. No. _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATORS JUAN PONCE ENRILE, JAMBY MADRIGAL,**
RAMON "Bong" REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAHMOUD A.M. ASFOUR

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

SECTION 1. Mahmoud A.M. Asfour is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

After the taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, Mahmoud A.M. Asfour shall enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,