

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand twenty-three.

RESOLUTION NO. 194

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING UNWAVERING SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HONORABLE SPEAKER FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ, AND UPHOLDING THE INTEGRITY AND HONOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FACE OF INTENSE ASSAULT FROM THE SENATE IN VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERPARLIAMENTARY COURTESY AND UNDUE INTERFERENCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS LEGISLATIVE AND CONSTITUENT FUNCTIONS

WHEREAS, under Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution, amendment to, or revision of the Constitution may be proposed by Congress, by a constitutional convention, or directly by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters,

of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein;

WHEREAS, in support of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s aim to make the Philippines investor-friendly and globally competitive, the House passed Resolution of Both Houses (RBH) No. 6, entitled "Resolution of Both Houses Calling for a Constitutional Convention to Propose Amendments to, or Revision of, the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines," for the purpose of amending the economic provisions in the Constitution, which was approved by the House of Representatives on March 6, 2023, and transmitted to the Senate of the Philippines on March 7, 2023;

WHEREAS, pending the appropriate action of the Senate on RBH No. 6, the People's Initiative for Modernization and Reform Action (PIRMA), a private organization, initiated a signature drive to amend the 1987 Constitution and filed these signatures in the local offices of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC);

WHEREAS, in the course of gathering the signatures of the people by private individuals, the Senate has adopted a confrontational stance by accusing the Speaker and the Members of the House of Representatives of engaging in a fraudulent people's initiative and alleging the use of bribery and government funds to unlawfully gather signatures;

WHEREAS, with the alleged lack of clear rules and regulations on the COMELEC's procedure on people's initiative, the COMELEC indefinitely suspended the acceptance of signature sheets purported to be the people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution on January 29, 2024;

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2024, the Senate conducted an investigation without a clear legislative purpose, specifically directed at discrediting the Honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, while taking criticisms is part and parcel of a healthy and working democracy, the House takes exception

to the recent statements and allegations made by the Senate that undermine the independence, reputation and integrity of the House of Representatives and the leadership of the Speaker;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives expresses its strong objection to the accusations, viewing them as a breach of interparliamentary courtesy and a challenge to the integrity of the parliamentary institution;

WHEREAS, the confrontational tactics used by the Senate are detrimental to the spirit of cooperative governance and the public's confidence in parliamentary processes;

WHEREAS, in the face of these unfounded indictments, the Speaker has taken the cudgel in shepherding the Members in steadfastly defending the integrity and honor of the House of Representatives by strictly discerning and observing mutual deference to a co-equal legislative body;

WHEREAS, with its slogan "One House, One Voice", the House of Representatives stands united in rejecting the unfounded accusations, commits itself to defend the dignity and integrity of the institution, and gives its full and unwavering support to the Speaker: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To express unwavering solidarity and support to the leadership of the Honorable Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and uphold the integrity and honor of the institution in the face of intense assault from the Senate in violation of the principle of interparliamentary courtesy and undue interference in the performance of its legislative and constituent functions.

Resolved, further, That Members of the House of Representatives be united in rejecting these unfounded accusations and in defending the dignity and integrity of the institution.

Resolved, furthermore, That this Resolution be a formal denunciation of the confrontational tactics used by the Senate, which are detrimental to the spirit of cooperative governance and the public's confidence in parliamentary processes.

Resolved, finally, That respectful dialogue and adherence to the norms of interparliamentary courtesy be reinstated to ensure that both Houses work in harmony for the betterment of the people and the nation, rather than engaging in unproductive and divisive conflicts.

Adopted,



RAYMOND DEMOCRITO C. MENDOZA
Presiding Officer

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 5, 2024.



REGINALD S. VELASCO
Secretary General