

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1443

INTRODUCED BY KABATAAN PARTY-LIST REP. RAYMOND V. PALATINO

A RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE OF REGISTRATION OF NEW VOTERS FROM OCTOBER 30, 2009 TO DECEMBER 15, 2009, IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT CALAMITIES THAT ENGULFED THE NATION AND DISRUPTED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS, TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE’S RIGHT TO SUFFRAGE IS SUFFICIENTLY GRANTED.

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article II of the 1987 Constitution asserts that “sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them;”

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article V of the 1987 Constitution asserts that “suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law;”

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections shortened the period for registration for first-time voters and new registrants from its original deadline of December 15 to October 30, 2009;

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2009, tropical storm “Ondoy” made landfall on Luzon and wreaked havoc and disaster to millions of Filipinos in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces, causing widespread flooding and destruction to lives and property;

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2009, just one week after “Ondoy” made landfall, typhoon “Pepeng” made its way into Northern Luzon, causing flooding and destruction to thousands of our countrymen in several provinces in the north;

WHEREAS, based on data from the 2007 elections, there are 6.7 million potential who have not registered and as of July 2009, only 2.7 million new voters have signed up;

WHEREAS, “Ondoy” and “Pepeng” displaced millions of Filipinos from their homes and disrupted the normal course of life for many of our countrymen;

WHEREAS, “Ondoy” and “Pepeng” caused the disruption and suspension of the work and responsibilities of many private and government institutions for several days;

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections announced Monday, September 28, that they will temporarily stop accepting applications for voter registration in typhoon-stricken areas in the cities of Pasig, Taguig, Muntinlupa, Marikina, Montalban, Rizal, among others, in light of the devastation caused by typhoon “Ondoy”;

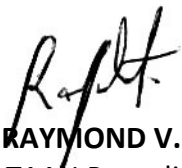
WHEREAS, even if COMELEC has announced that registration of new voters for the said areas have resumed, many of the barangays in the said cities and municipalities remain flooded;

WHEREAS, the suspension of registration of new voters may inevitably occur in some provinces and towns in Northern and Central Luzon affected by typhoon “Pepeng”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms direct the Commission on Elections to extend the deadline of registration of new voters from October 30, 2009 to its original date of December 15, 2009 in order to ensure that the people’s right to suffrage is protected, especially those whose lives are severely affected by the recent calamities that have struck the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Elections endeavor to reach 100 percent voters’ registration for all eligible Filipinos.

Adopted,



REP. RAYMOND V. PALATINO
KABATAAN Party-list