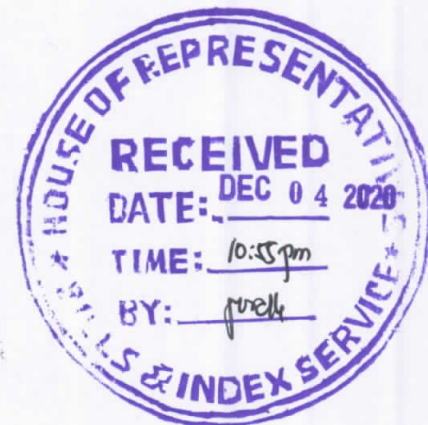


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8144



Introduced by
REP. GREG G. GASATAYA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed measure seeks to grant Filipino citizenship to Spanish soccer standout Bienvenido Maranon Morejon, who has been playing for the country and his Bacolod City-based team, Ceres-Negros Football Club, in the last five (5) years, consequently giving him all the rights and privileges, duties and obligations pertinent under the Constitution of the Philippines and other laws of the land.

The 34-year-old right-winger, born in the ancient port city of Cadiz, Spain in the Andalusia Region on May 15, 1986, had been based in Bacolod City since 2015 until his transfer to United City FC in Manila in March 2020 when the latter acquired the franchise of Ceres-Negros FC in the Philippines Football League, a major annual tournament accredited by the Philippine Football Federation and recognized by both the Asian Football Confederation and the ASEAN Football Federation.

As the topscorer of his team in national, regional, Asian tournaments, Maranon became an inspiration of young Filipino footballers, particularly Bacolenos and Negrenses, who came out by the thousands to cheer on him and his Ceres-Negros team everytime they have matches at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City, the football club's official home pitch. Filipino football fans, too, from all over the country would fly to Bacolod City to watch his team during inter-club competitions, ASEAN and Asian football hostilities.

Maranon grew up in the streets of Cadiz playing football. The sport has been his life despite not being able to attend football academy because his parents could not afford it. But this did not deter him to embrace the discipline, paving the way for a 15-year senior career in football that began in 2005.

Playing right wing/forward for his team in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental, Maranon made history in the AFC Cup where he booked a total of 35 goals, a record by a single booter in the more than 20-year history of the Asian tournament. In the recently-concluded PFL Championships alone, where his new team, the United City FC, emerged as champions, Maranon registered seven (7) goals, another record to his credit.

Over the years that he lived in Bacolod City, Maranon endeared himself to the locals. He initiated outreach programs for young Bacolodnons and Negrenses and reached as far as Aklan to promote the game. He epitomizes the ideal role model, an exceptional athlete, who, despite his Spanish ancestry, learned to love anything Filipino—the food, culture, the values—including our deep love of family and sense of community.

As such, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. GREG G. GASATAYA
Representative
Lone District of Bacolod City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8144

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO SPANISH FOOTBALL
STANDOUT BIENVENIDO MARANON MOREJON**

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

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

Section 2. Upon taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Mr. Bienvenido Maranon Morejon shall enter upon full enjoyment of his Philippine citizenship.

Section 3. After registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue Mr. Bienvenido Maranon Morejon his Certificate of Naturalization.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,