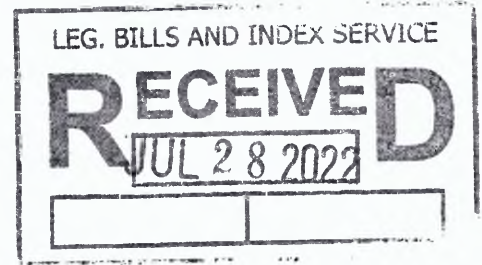




MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA



JUL 28 2022

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
and Members of the House of Representatives
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to Section 27(1), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, I return herewith without my signature the enrolled **Senate Bill No. 2490 / House Bill No. 9088**, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL (OGCC) BY RATIONALIZING AND FURTHER PROFESSIONALIZING ITS ORGANIZATION, UPGRADING POSITIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

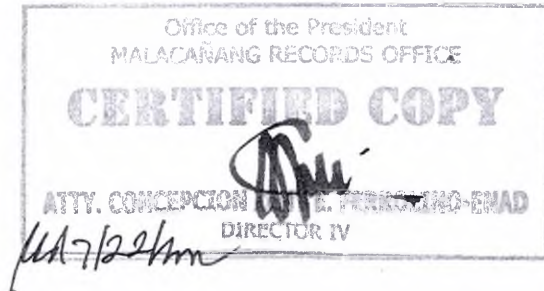
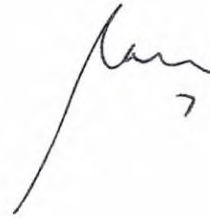
The Enrolled Bill seeks to improve the legal services of government corporations to efficiently address their expanding needs. This may be achieved concomitantly with the strengthening of the OGCC as their principal law office. The general intent of the Bill is laudable, which is to amend the existing Charter of the OGCC in order to meet the current contingencies, particularly in light of the increase in the clientele of the OGCC from fifty-nine (59) government corporations in 1983 to seven hundred thirty-two (732) in the present.

While I concur with the necessity to strengthen the existing structure and complement of the OGCC to make it more responsive to the legal assistance needed by government corporations, I find many of its provisions over-bearing, specifically the excessive grant of remuneration, incentives, benefits, allowances, and honoraria that violates the principles of equity and standardization; the increase in the Salary Grade of the Government Corporate Counsel from 30 to 31, effectively on the same level as that of the Secretary of Justice, which would distort the supervisor-subordinate relationship between the said officials; the grant of Attorney's Fees and Special Assessments that is not similarly given to other lawyers of different Executive agencies; the control and supervision over the legal departments of all government corporations, which may be prone to an unbridled abuse of authority; and the trust fund in the name of the OGCC, which is against the principle of the government's one-fund policy. Having examined the Bill in its entirety and considering the strong opposition of the Cabinet economic managers due to the inequity in compensation and substantial fiscal risks it may bring to the country, I am not persuaded.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

In view of these considerations, I am constrained to veto the above-mentioned Enrolled Bill.

Very truly yours,



Copy furnished:

The Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

The Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila

