

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE** )  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** )  
First Regular Session )

'22 NOV 21 A9 :24

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**

**S. B. NO. 1519**

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO  
JUSTIN DONTA BROWNLEE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is a nation that considers basketball as one of its favorite past times. The Philippine Basketball Association, the country's professional basketball league, prides itself as the first of its kind in Asia. Since then, a number of other professional and collegiate basketball leagues have been introduced in response to the growing enthusiasm of the Filipinos to participate in this sport.

This dedication to the game is further manifested in international basketball competitions wherein the best players of our country are gathered to form our national team. To improve our chances in international competitions, we have taken advantage of the International Basketball Federation's (FIBA) ruling to allow naturalized players to play for the national team of the country that naturalized him. In 2010, Congress naturalized Marcus Eugene Douthit from Syracuse, New York. In 2014, Congress also naturalized Andray Blatche, a former NBA player. During their stint, these players contributed significantly to our national team leading to our modest improvement in the FIBA standings.

It is in this light that this bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Justin Donta Brownlee.

Justin Donta Brownlee was born on April 23, 1988 in Georgia, United States of America. He is an American professional basketball player and has

distinguished himself as an excellent player in the NBA D-League as well as the NBA Summer League.

His contributions helped his team win five PBA titles, aside from winning the Best Import Award not once but twice. These achievements have brought enormous pride and joy to the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) and to all basketball enthusiasts in the country. With a very illustrious career in basketball, he wishes to play for the Philippine national team and has expressed his desire to stay in the country and be a naturalized citizen.

His drive to hone his craft, discipline to stay in shape, and determination to win games makes him an epitome of a true Filipino athlete. Mr. Brownlee also demonstrated his willingness to immerse himself in the Filipino culture by practicing the Bayanihan spirit with his involvement in several community service projects.

Mr. Brownlee's unequivocal allegiance to this country, admirable sportsmanship, and remarkable skills in the field of basketball will complement the country's roster of world-class athletes and help the Philippine national team regain recognition in international basketball tournaments.

His love for the Philippines and basketball truly makes him a Filipino at heart.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is highly recommended.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA *JV*

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Justin Donta Brownlee is hereby granted Philippine  
2 citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives  
3 appurtenant thereto.  
4

5 **SEC. 2.** Upon taking and registration of the Oath of Allegiance to the  
6 Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized for this  
7 purpose and registration with the Bureau of Immigration, Justin  
8 Donta Brownlee shall enter upon the full enjoyment of Philippine  
9 citizenship.  
10

11 **SEC. 3.** Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of  
12 Immigration shall issue Mr. Justin Donta Brownlee his Certificate of  
13 Naturalization.  
14

15 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
17

18 **Approved,**  
19