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Topic: Is it beneficial for aspirant architects and architects the House Bill No. 10234 or shall be known as "The Philippine Architecture Act of 2022"?

House Bill No. 10234: Fencing Filipino Architects and Aspirants from Vying with the Advancement of the World Ahead

House Bill No. 10234 has been a controversial issue in the past months. The Philippine senate's proclamation of the bill has affected professional architects and future architects who have been holding on to their titles and dreams. Many in the field have been dismayed on the said bill and stated disappointed opinions with both concern and frustration of the threat that this profession will vanish too. The strong consideration of the architects and aspirants' opinions would never be more useful on anything but this issue.

The Senate and the House of Representatives proposed House Bill No. 10234 through Rep. Christopher De Venecia. Stated to elevate the architecture regulation and practice in the country, few sections mentioned to set higher criteria that includes increasing of the required general weighted average from 70 to 75 percent, increasing the grade requirement in any given subject from 60 to 65 percent and limited taking of the Architecture Licensure Examination to three (3) as maximum and others.

Perhaps, setting the bar higher would enable aspirants to aim higher as well, dream bigger and become more competitive in what they think they already are. However, architecture is never a course and a profession that is taken lightly. That is why universities including PUP with its long years in program and high qualifying standards does not take this as a justifying act in exchange to the training and grounding that they have instilled to their students.

Buildings are not limited to roofs and walls. And especially, never only for grand designs and lots that exceed a hundred square meters. Studying architecture is a specialized training and process towards a better and advanced development. As Singson, an architecture student implied, "what has been studied by an architecture student is not taken up by engineering and interior design students". Thus, there is no other better approach with problems than consulting an architect who in one way or another has a built expertise in the field. "It limits the possibility of creating a better and built environment. It limits the execution of someone's passion and most importantly, innovations which start from small beginnings in designing through small lot areas and projects. It limits us, like me, to provide a better shelter and needs of people with specialized and smart planning, design and budget analysis, geological study and

function, space and form conceptualization for a better and improved quality of life.” These words from an architect expresses that instead of advancing, the bill is somehow putting restraint to both professionals in the field and importantly, to the community as well.

Both aspirant architects and professional architects could not agree more on the bill considering their right and expertise is due to the effectivity of elevating architecture itself. At this point in time, is there anything more saddening than a country that jeopardizes its future generations? Then, is there anyone who holds a more upright stand in House Bill No. 10234 to be known as “The Philippine Architecture Act of 2022” than those who understand the profession most?