- Public administration

# Atayde files eight priority measures

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QUEZON City 1st District Rep. Juan Carlos Atayde kicked off his second term in office by filing eight priority measures on Monday, June 30, the first day of the 20th Congress.

The bills, he said, reflect a legislative agenda that would continue his commitment for a "swift, responsive, and inclusive public service."

"The government must be present, proactive, and purposeful. That is what Aksyon Agad is all about — getting things done for the people who depend on us to make their lives better," Atayde said.

He said that these measures are about "listening to the people, understanding what they need, and then doing something about it right away."

The measures seek to increase the capacity of the East Avenue Medical Center from 1,000 to 1,500 beds to address overcrowding and improve access to health care; standardize salaries and benefits of barangay officials, converting their compensation from honoraria to regular government salaries with proper benefits; and establish a national framework and interagency mechanism to promote film and television tourism in the Philippines.

He also filed bills that would recognize Quezon City as the Film and Television Arts Capital of the Philippines in recognition of its vital role in the country's creative economy; create a national forensic DNA database to strengthen criminal investigations, disaster victim identification, and the exoneration of the innocent; regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in the job industry to prevent job displacement; and prohibit all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression (Sogie).

The lawmaker also filed a resolution urging the Department of Transportation and the Metro Rail Transit Corp. to rename the North EDSA MRT-7 Station to "Bago Bantay North EDSA Station," in recognition of the community's historical significance and cultural identity.

Atayde said that his constituents should not wait for years for problems to be solved.

"Better health care. Livable wages. Inclusive communities. Safer workplaces — that is what our constituents are asking for — and that is what we are working and fighting for in our second term," he said.

He said that these measures were shaped by lessons from his first three years in Congress.

"I am grateful for the trust the people of the 1st District have again given me. I return to Congress excited and ready to work even harder. Because progress cannot and should not wait — and neither should the people we serve," Atayde said.