



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'17 FEB -9 P2:04

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

S. B. No. 1323

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT

DECLARING THE TWENTY THIRD DAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES, TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC ON JANUARY 23, 1899 AT THE BARASOAIN CHURCH, MALOLOS, BULACAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On January 23, 1899, the First Philippine Republic (also known as the "*Malolos Republic*") was inaugurated at Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan. This momentous event gave the Philippines the distinction of being the first independent Republic in Asia. In addition, the declaration ushered in the constitution of the central government of the new Republic, officially marking the claim of Filipinos to sovereignty after more than three centuries of Spanish colonial rule.

The inauguration of the First Philippine Republic has been regarded as of equal significance with the Declaration of Independence on June 12, 1898 at Kawit, Cavite, and all other historic events leading towards the freedom of all Filipinos from foreign subjugation. In recognition of the importance of this date in Philippine history, former President Benigno S. Aquino III issued *Proclamation No. 533* on January 9, 2013, declaring January 23 of every year as "*Araw ng Republikang Filipino, 1899.*"

The foregoing measure seeks to declare January 23 of every year as a special working holiday to increase public awareness on the significance of the declaration of the First Philippine Republic, ensure meaningful

observance of the same, and encourage people's participation in the activities and programs that are to be spearheaded by the National Historical Commission.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III



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3 **EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE**
4 **ENTIRE PHILIPPINES, TO COMMEMORATE THE**
5 **DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC ON**
6 **JANUARY 23, 1899 AT THE BARASOAIN CHURCH,**
7 **MALOLOS, BULACAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,**
8 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

9 **SECTION. 1.***First Philippine Republic Day.* – To commemorate
10 the declaration of the inauguration of the First Philippine Republic, the
11 twenty third (23rd) day of January of every year is hereby declared as the
12 “First Philippine Republic Day” which shall be a special working
13 holiday in the entire country.

14 **SEC. 2.***Activities in Celebration of the First Philippine Republic*
15 *Day.*– The National Historical Commission (NHC), in coordination with
16 the Department of Education, shall plan and implement activities for the
17 “First Philippine Republic Day” to emphasize its significance to our
18 national history and democracy.

19 **SEC. 3.***Appropriations.* – The initial amount necessary to
20 implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current
21 year’s appropriation of the NHC. Thereafter, such sums as may be
22 necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included
23 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 4.***Separability Clause.*— Should any provision of this Act or
2 part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not
3 affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

4 **SEC. 5.***Repealing Clause.*— All laws, decrees, orders, and
5 issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions
6 of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 **SEC. 6.***Effectivity Clause.*— This Act shall take effect after fifteen
8 (15) days from its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general
9 circulation.

Approved,