

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



'17 JUL 26 P6:12

SENATE

RECEIVED

S. B. No. 1525

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO
COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST
PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On January 23, 1899, the Philippine Republic was inaugurated at Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan. This day was marked by the reading of the whole Constitution by Secretary Ocampo; the proclamation of the Republic of the Philippines by Congress President Paterno; the proclamation of Aguinaldo as the elected President of the new Republic; and speeches by Aguinaldo and Paterno.¹

The First Philippine Republic catapulted the Filipino nation onto the world's consciousness, carving not only a place among the family of nations, but also a distinct niche as the First Republic in Asia. Indeed, the establishment of the First Philippine Republic proved that Filipinos were capable of self-rule and deserved their longed-for-freedom after more than 300 years of bondage from Spanish rule.²

It is therefore important to commemorate January 23 of every year as the inauguration of the First Philippine Republic to remind us of the beginning of Filipino Democracy and the fight towards our freedom.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

¹ <http://nhcp.gov.ph/the-first-philippine-republic/> (Date Accessed last July 25, 2017)

² *Ibid*

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REPUBLIC**

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

3
4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as "The First Philippine Republic
5 Day".

6
7 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** January 23 of every year is hereby declared as "The
8 First Philippine Republic Day" which shall be a special working holiday in the entire
9 country to commemorate the declaration of the First Philippine Republic on January
10 23, 1899, held at the Barasoain Church in the City of Malolos, Province of Bulacan.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Lead Agency.** The National Historical Commission, in coordination with the
13 Department of Education, shall plan and implement activities for "The First Philippine
14 Republic Day" and ensure that the significance of this historical event shall continue
15 to inspire Filipinos.

16
17 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
19 shall remain valid and subsisting.

20
21 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
22 regulations or part thereof deemed inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
23 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

24
25 **SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of
27 general circulation.

28
29 **Approved.**