

SENATE

'19 JUL 15 A10:01

S. No. 457

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO (22) OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

On January 22, 1987, thirteen (13) farmers lost their lives at a Farmers' March held in Mendiola Street, San Miguel, Manila. The farmers' peaceful protest was dispersed with violence by state forces. The innocent Filipino farmers lost their lives at the hands of the state while merely demanding what was rightfully theirs. These farmers just wanted what was promised to them by our Constitution and what was committed to them by the Administration at the time. This incident is referred to as 'Black Thursday' by Filipino journalists and is commonly known by the people as the 'Mendiola Massacre'.

The march was organized by different farmer groups from all over the country and their supporters to demand the fulfillment of promises made by then President Corazon Aquino regarding land reform and the distribution of lands at no cost to the beneficiaries.

This bill aims to not only remind the nation of the tragedy but to also honor the heroism of the farmers who lost their lives in the fight for genuine agrarian reform. Furthermore, this Act is a recognition and appreciation of the vital role farmers play in achieving a just, prosperous and democratic society.

In this regard, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. The Twenty-Second (22nd) day of January of every year is hereby declared
2 as a special working holiday to be known as the "National Farmers' Day".

3 Sec. 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads
4 of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled
5 corporations especially those that are dealing directly with the farmers as well as local
6 government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient
7 time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity
8 conducted within their premises of their respective offices or establishments in support and
9 sympathy to farmers across the country to celebrate "National Farmers' Day".

10 Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
11 Gazette of the Philippines or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

12

13 Approved,