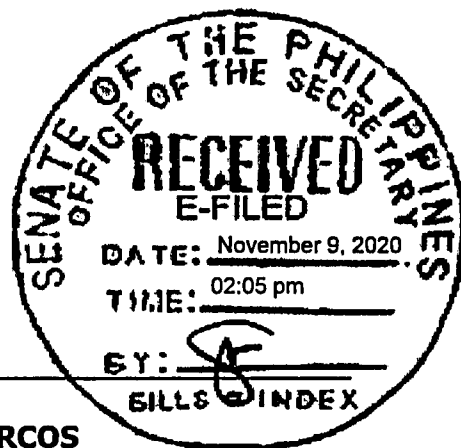


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 1904



Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT DECLARING THE 9TH OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY", A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY, AND THE MONTH OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated around the world every 9th of August, which is the anniversary of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982.

On October 5, 2009, Proclamation No. 1906, Series of 2009, was issued by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, declaring the month of October of every year as National Indigenous Peoples Month.

Thereafter, on October 23, 2015, then President Benigno S. Aquino III signed into law Republic Act No. 10689, declaring 9th of August as a special working holiday to commemorate the National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Philippines.

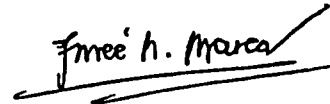
With the National Indigenous Peoples Day not falling within the National Indigenous Peoples Month, there is a need to harmonize Proclamation No. 1906, Series of 2009, and R.A. No. 10689.

Moreover, our Indigenous Peoples communities have been campaigning and promoting their "One Day: IP Day" for more than six years for the declaration of August 9 as a non-working holiday just as all other sacred and significant days for our Christian and Muslim brethren.

IPs are estimated to be 12% to 17% of the total population of our country. Of the 187 languages of the Philippines, 175 are indigenous. Our IPs have resisted

political, social, and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures since time immemorial. Theirs is the blood of our first ancestors. They deserve to be honored and celebrated.

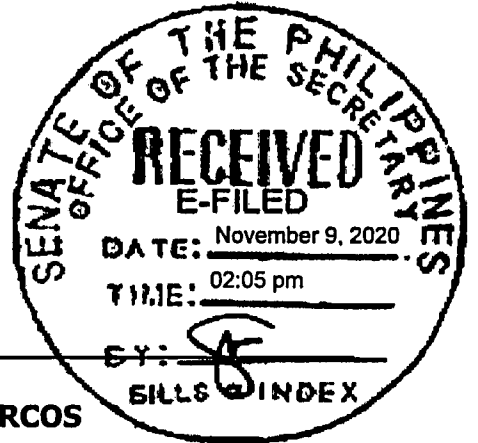
In view of the foregoing the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

IMEE R. MARCOS

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE
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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT DECLARING THE 9TH OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY", A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY, AND THE MONTH OF AUGUST AS "NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MONTH"

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared a policy of the State to advance the rights
2 and collective well-being of indigenous peoples through the annual observance of
3 National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Indigenous Peoples Month.
- 4 **SEC. 2.** The National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Philippines shall be
5 observed on the 9th of August of each year and is hereby declared a special non-working
6 holiday to recognize and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples as members of the
7 Indigenous Cultural Communities of the Philippines.
- 8 **SEC. 3.** The month of August is declared as National Indigenous Peoples Month
9 for the people's participation in the celebration and preservation of Indigenous Cultural
10 Communities as part of the Life of the Nation.
- 11 **SEC. 4.** In accordance with its mandate in Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7356,
12 the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), shall act as the lead agency
13 in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the program of activities and
14 events for the National Indigenous Peoples Month, and in liaising with appropriate
15 international organizations linked with the United National Educational, Scientific and
16 Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the promotion of cultural diversity, in cooperation
17 with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on
18 Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher
19 Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
20 (TESDA).

1 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the National
2 Commission on Indigenous Peoples, together with the NCCA, shall formulate the
3 implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or part hereof be
5 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall
6 remain valid and effective.

7 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 10689, Proclamation No. 1906,
8 Series of 2009, and all laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which
9 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or
10 modified accordingly.

11 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,