

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

22 NOV -2 P2 :08

SENATE
S. No. 1445

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF MAY OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL EDUCATION
SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1994, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared October 5 of every year as the World Teachers' Day to celebrate the crucial role of teachers in molding young minds and imparting quality education to the learners. It is also an occasion to reflect on the support that they need to enable them to perform their profession more effectively.

The education system is a holistic one that is comprised not only by teachers, but also by personnel who are not engaged in classroom teaching. These personnel are tasked with providing administrative support, and among them are the teaching assistants, registrars, librarians, guidance counselors and medical staff. While they are not directly involved in the formal teaching of students, they help the teachers perform their duties by relieving them of administrative and clerical task. To enable the students reap the full benefits of education, they also provide services that will help realize the holistic development of the children.

However, the personnel who provide support to the education system continues to remain in the background, often unrecognized and unthanked. The Education International (EI), the Global Union Federation of organizations of teachers and other education employees from different parts of the world stated that, "Education Support Personnel (ESP) have always been critical to positive and safe learning environments and to making sure that education institutions function effectively, however, even inside education systems their contributions have not always been fully appreciated. Too often, they do not have access to quality training and career development and aren't consulted on issues that impact their profession." It further stated that, "many ESP remained overworked and underpaid. Some had little or no job security and had precarious contracts. In some countries, they were laid off without compensation during school and university closures."

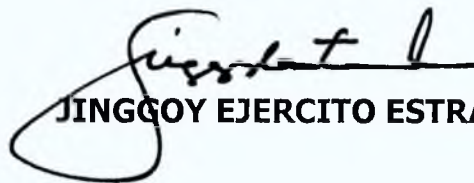
In response to this, EI designated May 16 of every year as the World Education Support Personnel Day to recognize the invaluable role of ESP all over the globe. The celebration focuses on the status and rights of ESP and their special contribution to the education system especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The advocacies of EI are shared by various organizations in the Philippines. Among their members in the Philippines are Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Federation of Free Workers – Trade Federation VIII (FFW), National Alliance of Teachers and Office Workers (SMP-NATOW), Philippine Public School Teachers' Association (PPSTA), and Teachers' Organisation of the Philippine Public Sector (TOPSS).

In the Philippines, support personnel are known as non-teaching personnel and other teaching-related personnel. The former is defined under Republic Act No. 11713 or the "Excellence in Teacher Education Act" as "those who perform teaching-related functions as guidance counselors and librarians, and other personnel to be determined by the (Teacher Education) Council".

The "*National Education Support Personnel Day Act*" seeks to designate May 16 of every year as a special working holiday in the honor of education support personnel. Such celebration will enable the communities to celebrate and value their important role and more importantly, highlight the government's duty to take concrete steps to promote and protect their status, rights, and conditions of service.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*National Education*
2 *Support Personnel Day Act*".

3 Sec. 2. *Definition of Education Support Personnel.* - As used in this Act, the
4 term "education support personnel" refers to those persons employed by a school as
5 teaching assistants, clerks, registrars, librarians, nurses, doctors, guidance
6 counselors and psychologists, and the rest of professional, administrative, technical,
7 and general staff who provide support to students and teaching personnel.

8 Sec. 3. *National Education Support Personnel Day.* - In recognition of the
9 observance of World Education Support Personnel Day, the sixteenth (16th) day of
10 May of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday to be known as the
11 National Education Support Personnel Day.

12 To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of this day, the heads
13 of national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations
14 involved in education, local government units, and employers in the private sector
15 involved in education, are encouraged to allow their respective personnel to

1 participate in any related activity to be held within the premises of their respective
2 offices or establishments.

3 Sec. 4. *Lead Agencies.* — The Department of Education and the Commission
4 on Higher Education shall serve as the lead agencies in the preparation and
5 implementation of the annual program of activities for the observance of the
6 National Education Support Personnel Day.

7 Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,