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

5 SEP 14 A11 :19

RECEIVED BY : _____

SENATE

S. B. No. __2119__

Introduced by Senator Arroyo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The spate of sudden announcements of special non-working holidays recently has provoked a lot of discussion. There are complaints that because of the suddenness of the announcement, business, employees, students, professionals and the public in general cannot plan beforehand what they would like to do during that particular day and this defeats the very spirit of why holidays are celebrated

The bill seeks to rationalize, institutionalize, and provide the guidelines for the dates of the celebration of holidays.

The Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days being presently observed in the Philippines are provided under Executive Order No. 203 and Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of 1987", as amended by Republic Act No. 9177, to wit:

A. "Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	-	January 1
Maundy Thursday	-	Movable Date
Good Friday	-	Movable Date
Eidul Fitr	-	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan	-	April 9
(Bataan and Corregidor Day)		
Labor Day	-	May 1
Independence Day	-	June 12
National Heroes Day	-	Last Sunday of August
Bonifacio Day	-	November 30
Christmas Day	-	December 25
Rizal Day	-	December 30

B. Nationwide Special Days

Ninoy Aquino Day	-	August 21
All Saints Day	-	November 1
Last Day of the Year	-	December 31"

In sum, there are eleven (11) national regular holidays and three (3) nationwide special days mandatorily observed in the Philippines. However, whenever a national holiday occurs on a Tuesday or Thursday, the government has the tendency to declare the day sandwiched between the weekend and the holiday a special non-working holiday. Thus, the number of non-working holidays are unnecessarily increased.

Under the proposed measure, holidays with a fixed date, shall be limited to four (4), namely, New Year's Day, January 1; All Saint's Day, November 1; Christmas Day, December 25; and the last day of the year, December 31. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Eidul Fitr have always been and shall remain movable dates. The remaining holidays shall also have movable dates and shall be observed on the Monday or Friday nearest the original date of the holiday, to wit: Araw ng Kagitingan (Bataan and Corregidor Day), Monday or Friday nearest April 9; Labor Day, Monday or Friday nearest May 1; Independence Day, Monday or Friday nearest June 12; Ninoy Aquino Day, Monday or Friday nearest August 21; National Heroes' Day, Last Monday of August; Bonifacio Day, Monday or Friday nearest November 30; and Rizal Day, Monday or Friday nearest December 30. In the event the holiday falls on a Wednesday, the holiday will be observed on the Monday of that week. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the Monday that follows. There will be continuity of non-working days when certain holiday take place but the number of non-working days will neither be increased nor decreased.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly requested.

JOKER P. ARROYO
Senator

SENATE   RECEIVED BY:_____

S. B. No. ___2119

Introduced by Senator Arroyo

AN ACT
RATIONALIZING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26, CHAPTER 7, BOOK I OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987

SECTION 1. Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, as
amended, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, is hereby amended to
read as follows:

"SEC. 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days. —(1)
Unless otherwise modified by law, order or proclamation, the following
regular holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

a. Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	-	January 1
Maundy Thursday	-	Movable Date
Good Friday	-	Movable Date
Eidul Fitr	-	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
(Bataan and Corregidor Day)		April 9
Labor Day-	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
		May 1
Independence Day	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
		June 12
National Heroes Day	-	Last [Sunday] **MONDAY** of August
Bonifacio Day	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
		November 30
Christmas Day	-	December 25
Rizal Day	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
		December 30

b. Nationwide Special Holidays

NINOY AQUINO DAY	-	**MONDAY OR FRIDAY NEAREST**
		AUGUST 21
All Saints Day	-	November 1
Last Day of the Year	-	December 31

C. IN THE EVENT THE HOLIDAY FALLS ON A WEDNESDAY, THE HOLIDAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE MONDAY OF THAT WEEK. IF THE HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SUNDAY, THE HOLIDAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON THE MONDAY THAT FOLLOWS.

Provided, however, That *Eidul Adha* shall be celebrated as a regional Holiday in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."

SEC. 2.   All laws, orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3.   This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,