



23 JAN 12 P 3:34

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE
S.B. No. 1665

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.

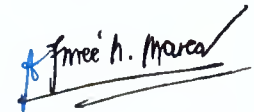
Thereafter, on October 23, 2015, then President Benigno S. Aquino III signed into law Republic Act No. 10689, declaring the 9th of August as a special working holiday to commemorate the National Indigenous Peoples Day in the Philippines.

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 (IPs) communities have been campaigning and promoting their "One Day: IP Day" for more than six (6) years for the declaration of the 9th of August as a non-working holiday just like all other sacred and significant days for our Christian and Muslim brethren.

The Philippines is home to at least 17 million IPs belonging to 110 ethnolinguistic groups. 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 blue ink that reads "Imee R. Marcos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

IMEE R. MARCOS



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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared a policy of the State
2 to advance the rights and collective well-being of indigenous peoples through the
3 annual observance of National Indigenous Peoples Day and National Indigenous
4 Peoples Month.

5
6 **SEC. 2.** *National Indigenous Peoples Day.* – The National Indigenous Peoples
7 Day in the Philippines shall be observed on the 9th of August of each year and is hereby
8 declared a special non-working holiday to recognize and promote the rights of
9 Indigenous Peoples as members of the Indigenous Cultural Communities of the
10 Philippines.

11
12 **SEC. 3.** *National Indigenous Peoples Month.* – The month of August is declared
13 as National Indigenous Peoples Month for the people's participation in the celebration
14 and preservation of Indigenous Cultural Communities as part of the Life of the Nation.

15
16 **SEC. 4.** In accordance with its mandate in Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7356,
17 the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), shall act as the lead agency
18 in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the program of activities and
19 events for the National Indigenous Peoples Month, and in liaising with appropriate
20 international organizations linked with the United National Educational, Scientific and

1 Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the promotion of cultural diversity, in cooperation
2 with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on
3 Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher
4 Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
5 (TESDA).

6
7 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the NCIP,
8 together with the NCCA, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this
9 Act.

10
11 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or part hereof be
12 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall
13 remain valid and effective.

14
15 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 10689, Proclamation No. 1906,
16 Series of 2009, and all laws, decrees, orders, and Issuances, or portions thereof, which
17 are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or
18 modified accordingly.

19
20 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22
Approved,