

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 552

Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON MAY 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the year 2023 marks a significant milestone for the State of Israel as they celebrate the seventy-fifth (75th) anniversary of the country's establishment, declared on May 14, 1948¹;

WHEREAS, the official establishment of the State of Israel was made possible by the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of Resolution 181² in November 1947, calling for the official partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, to which the Philippines voted in favor along with thirty-three (33) other countries;

WHEREAS, the Philippines' involvement with the Jewish community goes way back to the Nazi persecution brought about by the Holocaust, with then-President Manuel L. Quezon welcoming 1,300 European Jews seeking refuge through its Open Door Policy³ in 1934;

¹ The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel. Available at https://www.gov.il/en/Departments/General/declaration-of-establishment-state-of-israel#:~:text=On%20May%2014%2C%201948%2C%20on,of%20the%20State%20of%20Israel (Accessed on March 15, 2023).

² 1947: The international community says YES to the establishment of the State of Israel. Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Available at https://mfa.gov.il/Jubilee-years/Pages/1947-UN-General-Assembly-Resolution-181-The-international-community-says-Yes-to-the-establishment-of-the-State-of-Israel.aspx (Accessed on March 15, 2023).

³Remembering our humanitarian legacy with 'Safe Haven: Jewish Refugees in the Philippines.' United Nations Human Rights Council Philippines. Available at https://www.unhcr.org/ph/17553-jewish-refugees.html (Accessed on March 15, 2023).

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Israel developed full diplomatic relations in 1957, made official through the signature of the Treaty of Friendship in 1958. Both nations continue to create deep connections and share holistic democratic values, freedom, and civil rights as manifested in the fourteen (14) existing major bilateral agreements;⁴

WHEREAS, the Philippines joins the State of Israel in the celebration of its seventy-fifth (75th) founding anniversary in commemoration of both nations' steadfast and unwavering commitment to its harmonious and peaceful diplomatic relations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, that the Senate of the Philippines recognize and commemorate the seventy-fifth (75th) anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948.

Adopted,

SENATOR JOÉL VILLANUEVA

⁴ History of Philippine-Israel Relations. Israel Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. Available at https://www.iccp.ph/about-us/history-of-philippine-israel-relations/. (Accessed on March 15, 2023).