

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



23 AUG -1 A10 :13

SENATE
S. No. 2372

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 9 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE PHILIPPINES-ISRAEL
FRIENDSHIP DAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has always prided itself in being one of the most hospitable countries in the world. One of the friendships born from this hospitality is between the Philippines and the State of Israel. In 1957, the State of Israel and the Republic of the Philippines established full diplomatic relations with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship on February 26, 1958. On 1962, the Israeli embassy in Manila and the Philippine embassy in Tel Aviv opened.

There are two pivotal roles played by the Philippines in Israel history – the rescue of more than a thousand Jews from Nazi Germany and the Philippines' vote for the creation of the State of Israeli in 1947.

In the late 1930's, President Manuel L. Quezon officially offered a safe haven an disused 10,000 visas to Jewish refugees when most of the world shut their doors for Jews. Philippines, through President Quezon's "Open Door Policy" received up to one thousand three hundred Jewish refugees and settled them in government-provided housing communities in Marikina.

On November 1947, the Philippines voted for the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 recommending partition of Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish State. Our country was among the 33 countries who supported the creation of the State of Israel, in fact, we were the only Asian country which voted for the said UN Resolution.

On February 26, 2018, marked the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship between Philippines and Israel. It was also the 80th anniversary of President Manuel Quezon's Open Door Policy, 70th anniversary to the Philippines' vote for the United Nations resolution that led to the creation of the State of Israel, and of course the 70th anniversary of Israel's statehood.¹

Accordingly, this measure is an instrument in order to pay tribute and memorialize the long partnership and relationship between the Philippines and Israel, and to celebrate the perpetuity of this tie between both nations.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

¹ <https://embassies.gov.il/manila/NewsAndEvents/Pages/Israel-and-PH-mark-.aspx>

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DECLARING AUGUST 9 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE PHILIPPINES-ISRAEL
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines, in
Congress assembled:*

- 1 Section 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:
- 2 a) Strengthen the relationship between the Philippines and countries with
- 3 which it has shared history, values, and traditions; and
- 4 b) Commemorate notable acts of bravery and compassion of the Filipino
- 5 people.
- 6 Sec. 2. The ninth of August each year is hereby declared as the Philippines-
- 7 Israel Friendship Day to commemorate the establishment of diplomatic relations
- 8 between the Philippines and Israel, birthed from the signing of Proclamation No. 173
- 9 by President Manuel L. Quezon which called on all Filipinos to welcome and help Jewish
- 10 refugees who were escaping the horrors of the Holocaust.
- 11 Sec. 3. The Department of Foreign Affairs is hereby mandated to spearhead in
- 12 collaboration with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and all other
- 13 government agencies and institutions the conduct of activities in celebration of the
- 14 Philippine-Israel Friendship Day and the implementation of projects and events
- 15 promoting friendship and cultural understanding between the Philippines and Israel.

1 Sec. 4. All laws, orders and issuances, rules and regulations and/or parts
2 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
3 accordingly.

4 Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in
5 the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

6

7 *Approved,*