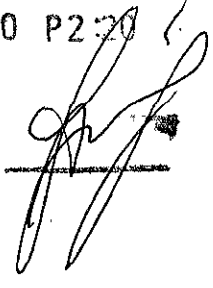


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

7 JUN 30 P2:20

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 136

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

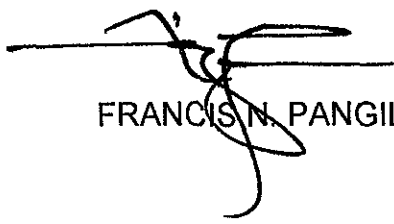
The Philippines and China are neighboring countries that share a friendship dating back to ancient times. This friendly association has brought about a strong and increasing presence of the Filipino-Chinese community in the country.

Their presence in the Philippines has contributed to the increase in economic and trade relations between these two countries. Further, the various businesses of the Filipino-Chinese community in the Philippines account for employment generation to the great advantage of our labor force. Their economic contribution, thus, cannot be quantified in terms of monetary benefits alone.

Aside from economic favor, cultural enrichment has likewise been derived from long association and assimilation with the Chinese people. Cultural and social assimilation has resulted in the recognition of numerous Chinese cultural customs, foremost of which is in the Chinese New Year, which is celebrated by many Filipino and Filipino-Chinese with the same festivity as the Chinese Nationals.

By setting aside the day when Chinese New Year falls to commemorate the occasion which both Chinese and most of Filipinos celebrate, we would be enhancing the mutually beneficial relations between us and furthering the amity forged between these two countries.

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



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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

7 JUN 30 P 2:25

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE BILL No. 136

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Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING CHINESE NEW YEAR OF EACH YEAR AS A SPECIAL  
WORKING HOLIDAY AS A SIGN OF GOODWIL AND AMITY BETWEEN  
THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA**

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

1           SECTION 1. In recognition of the immeasurable contribution of the Filipino  
2 Chinese community in our country and in order to further strengthen the Filipino-  
3 Chinese amity, the Chinese New Year of each year is hereby declared as a special  
4 working Holiday throughout the entire Philippines.

5           SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) calendar days after its publication  
6 publication in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

7           Approved,