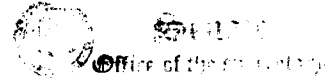


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 FEB 28 P3:41

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2581

RECEIVED BY: dw

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE 3rd OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – SOUTH KOREA FRIENDSHIP DAY”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and South Korea established formal diplomatic relations on March 3, 1949. Seventy-five (75) years later, the friendship between the two nations has evolved from focused military cooperation to a broader partnership encompassing political-security, socio-cultural, economic, and developmental aspects.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), South Korea is a valued trade and investment partner of the Philippines. In 2022, it ranked fourth in terms of total bilateral trade valued at \$15.45 billion and fourth in total approved investments valued at \$90.62 million.¹

Last September 7, 2023, our countries set another milestone of bilateral relations after signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Under the said FTA, South Korea will remove tariffs on approximately 94.8% of Philippine products, while the Philippines will reciprocate by abolishing tariffs on about 96.5% of South Korean products.²

¹ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/881576/what-will-ph-goods-will-enjoy-zero-tariff-under-fta-with-south-korea/story/>

² <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/philippines-and-south-korea-sign-free-trade-agreement/>

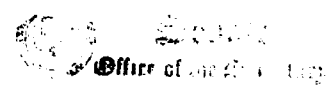
Korean pop culture, which includes K-pop music, dramas, and movies, has become a sensation in the Philippines, sparking Filipinos' interest in Korean traditions. In the Philippines, we also attract many South Korean students and tourists, fostering cultural exchange and strengthening bonds between the two nations.

This bill seeks to designate March 3rd as a special day to celebrate the long-standing relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State
2 to pursue an independent foreign policy in its relations with other
3 States. It is also the policy of the State to put value to its existing
4 bilateral relations with other States and to commemorate and celebrate
5 these bilateral relations annually, and on their special occasions like the
6 50th, 75th, and 100th year anniversaries of the said bilateral relations.

7
8 **SEC. 2. Diplomatic Relations.** - The Philippines and South Korea
9 established their diplomatic relations on March 3, 1949. Therefore, the
10 3rd of March of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for the
11 commemoration of the “Philippines – South Korea Friendship Day”.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Foreign
14 Affairs (DFA) shall lead the Government in the commemoration and
15 celebration of the “Philippines – South Korea Friendship Day”
16 annually, and on other special occasions such as, but not limited to, the
17 75th and 100th year anniversaries.

1 **SEC 4. *Special Day Status.*** - The Special Day status of the date
2 herein referred to in Section 2 shall not affect its classification as either
3 a working or a non-working day as determined by some other more
4 specific law.

5
6 **SEC. 5. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial
7 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current
8 appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the
9 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
10 General Appropriations Act.

11
12 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders,
13 proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are
14 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
15 accordingly.

16
17 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
18 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
19 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,