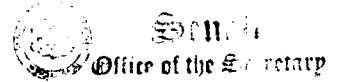


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**



24 MAR -6 P5:06

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**SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2592**

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE 23rd OF JULY OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – JAPAN FRIENDSHIP DAY”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and Japan established formal diplomatic relations on July 23, 1956.

According to Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, the 67-year-old bilateral relationship between the governments of Japan and the Philippines is now at a “golden age”.

Japan is the Philippines’ number one official development assistance (ODA) partner, whose support has contributed to projects in infrastructure development, investment readiness, disaster risk mitigation and management, food security, education, health, maritime safety, and peace and development in Mindanao.¹ Last year, over 80 Japanese employers sought to hire more Filipino workers citing “excellent work ethic and friendly disposition”.²

In recognition of the significant contributions of Japan to our country and the positive relations between our nations, this bill seeks

¹ <https://www.dof.gov.ph/japan-strengthens-development-cooperation-with-ph/>

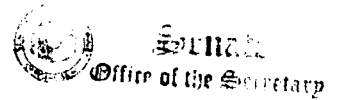
² [https://www.rappler.com/nation/overseas-filipinos/susan-ople-says-japanese-employers-
seek-more-skilled-filipino-workers/](https://www.rappler.com/nation/overseas-filipinos/susan-ople-says-japanese-employers-seek-more-skilled-filipino-workers/)

to designate July 23rd as a special day to celebrate the long-standing relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan.

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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[Signature]

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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 Japan
9 established their diplomatic relations on July 23, 1956. Therefore, the
10 23rd of July of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for the
11 commemoration of the “Philippines – Japan 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 – Japan Friendship Day” annually, and
16 on other special occasions like, but not limited to, the 75th and 100th
17 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,