

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



24 MAR 11 P1:20

RECEIVED BY:

**SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2600**

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE 28th OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR
AS A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – HUNGARY FRIENDSHIP DAY”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and Hungary established formal diplomatic relations on September 28, 1973. The diplomatic ties between the two countries have evolved into a multifaceted partnership covering trade, labor and more.

In 2022, Hungary was the Philippines’ 45th trading partner (out of 231), with almost US\$190 million trade values; 29th export market (out of 213), and 60th import source (out of 216). Hungary, for its part, relies on foreign country workers and professionals, including those from the Philippines.¹

Indeed, Hungary’s commitment to foster ties with our country mirrors a common aspiration of prosperity and cooperation.

This bill seeks to designate September 28th as a special day to celebrate the enduring partnership between the Republic of the Philippines and Hungary.

¹ <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/news-archives/ph-hungary-strengthen-economic-ties-ph-business-delegation-forges-business-deals-budapest/>

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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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 Hungary
9 established their diplomatic relations on September 28, 1973.
10 Therefore, the 28th of September of every year is hereby declared as a
11 Special Day for the commemoration of the “Philippines – Hungary
12 Friendship Day”.

13
14 **SEC. 3. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Foreign
15 Affairs (DFA) shall lead the Government in the commemoration and
16 celebration of the “Philippines – Hungary Friendship Day” annually,

1 and on other special occasions like, but not limited to, the 75th and 100th
2 year anniversaries.

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

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

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

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

Approved,