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

Senate
Office of the Secretary
24 APR 22 P3 :51
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S E N A T E
Senate Bill No. 2641

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE 2nd OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE "PHILIPPINES – RUSSIA FRIENDSHIP DAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and Russia established their bilateral relationship on June 2, 1976. Since then, our countries have enjoyed cordial and expanding relations with signed agreements in the areas of agriculture, cultural cooperation, defense and security cooperation, education, mutual legal assistance, extradition, nuclear energy, mass communication, trade, and tourism.

During the 31st Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Manila on November 25, 2023, the Congress engaged in discussions with the delegation from the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The dialogue focused on fostering future initiatives across various sectors including education, culture, and economy. Both parties expressed their intention to enhance cooperation through joint efforts in space exploration, nuclear technology, and information and communications technology.

Additionally, they exchanged ideas on potential collaborations in sports, as well as initiatives to promote the Russian language in the Philippines. Moreover, the parties explored possibilities to facilitate direct flights between the two countries to stimulate tourism.

This bill seeks to dedicate June 2nd as a special day to honor the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Russia.

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:

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

SEC. 2. *Diplomatic Relations.* - The Philippines and Russia established their diplomatic relations on June 2, 1976. Therefore, the 2nd of June of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for the commemoration of the "Philippines – Russia Friendship Day".

SEC. 3. *Implementing Agency.* - The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall lead the Government in the commemoration and celebration of the "Philippines – Russia Friendship Day" annually, and on other special occasions like, but not limited to, the 50th, 75th and 100th year anniversaries.

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

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

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

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

Approved,