

SENATE

S. NO. 372

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Children are born with fundamental freedom and inherent rights as accorded to all human beings. Article XV Section 3(2) of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development. Moreover, the Philippines is signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child and adheres to its thrust of promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of children. Notwithstanding these international and national initiatives, cases of child rights violations remain unbridled.

Based on the recent statistics of Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) report from 2001 to 2006, more than 200,000 Filipino children suffered from various exploitation acts and human rights injustices.¹ Minors are coerced to work as prostitutes, combatants, and workers in other forms of labor especially in hazardous working environments. Furthermore, they are not adequately nourished and educated. Around four million Filipino children are malnourished². Evidently, there is a dire need to instill consciousness among our people of the necessity to uphold the rights and welfare of our children.

In this light, this measure proposes that the second Sunday of October be declared as National Children's Day. It is hoped that such celebration shall promote awareness over the protection of the rights of Filipino children and the importance of fostering their well-being to secure the growth and development of society.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

Senator

¹ Information retrieved from: <http://www.stolenchildhood.net/entry/unicef-200000-filipino-children-victims-of-human-rights-violation/> Retrieved on 16 March 2009.

² Information retrieved from: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/breakingnews/nation/view/20080705-146662/4M-malnourished-Filipino-children>. Retrieved on 16 march 2009.

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
DECLARING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY IN THE
COUNTRY ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "*National Children's Day Act.*"

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3 **SEC. 2.** The second Sunday of October of every year shall hereby be known as the
4 "National Children's Day" to promote consciousness over the protection of the rights of Filipino
5 children and the importance of fostering their well-being to secure the growth and development
6 of society.

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8 **SEC. 3.** Pursuant to the observance of the National Children's Day, an annual program of
9 activities shall be prepared and implemented with the Department of Social Welfare and
10 Development (DSWD), the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Council for the Welfare
11 of Children (CWC) as lead agencies.

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13 In support thereof, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher
14 Education (CHED) shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this day in all schools,
15 public and private, nationwide. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with
16 the DSWD, DepEd, CHED, NYC and CWC shall ensure the effective information dissemination
17 of this Act.

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1 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2)
2 newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,