

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. No. 485

BY: 

Introduced by Sen. Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

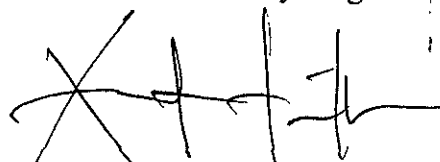
Explanatory Note

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 malnourished.² 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 November 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.



SEN. ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

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

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AN ACT
DECLARING NOVEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

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.*"

2
3 **SEC. 2.** November 20 of every year is hereby declared as the "National Children's Day"
4 to promote consciousness over the protection of the rights of Filipino children and the
5 importance of fostering their well-being to secure the growth and development of society.

6 This declaration shall likewise commemorate the United Nations General Assembly
7 Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in recognition of the United
8 Nations celebration of Universal Children's Day.

9
10 **SEC. 3.** Pursuant to the observance of the National Children's Day, an annual program of
11 activities shall be prepared and implemented with the Department of Education (DepEd),
12 Department of Social Welfare and 1 Development (DSWD), the National Youth Commission
13 (NYC) and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as lead agencies.

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

18

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,