

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1494

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by **SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agriculture lingers as an imperative sector of the Philippine economy as it provided 33 percent of the total employment according to the NSO April 2012 Labor Force Survey. The total agro-based products accounted for 7.1% of the total exports of the Philippines in April 2012 as provided by NSO Foreign Trade Statistics. And according to the National Statistics and Coordination Board, 1st Quarter 2012 National Accounts, about 12.5% of the gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2012 came from the agriculture, hunting, fishery and forestry industries.

The country is the 8th largest rice producer in the world, accounting for 2.8% of global rice production. In addition, the Philippines is far and wide well known for its rich aquatic resources.

It is but apt and proper that we acknowledge the contribution and importance of the farmers and fisher folks in this country. It's not the date that's important, it's the ideals behind remembering that date that should be honored every year.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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**AN ACT DECLARING MAY 15 OF EACH YEAR A SPECIAL
NONWORKING HOLIDAY TO OBSERVE THE NATIONAL FARMERS
AND FISHERFOLK DAY**

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

SECTION 1. May 15 of each year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday to enable the citizenry to appropriately observe and celebrate "National Farmers and Fisherfolk Day".

SECTION 2. 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,