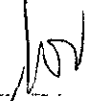


Republic of the Philippines
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES
Pasay City



13 NOV -7 P5:19

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. No. 908

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Ties between Filipino and Chinese communities have already lasted a little more than a millennium. With links dating as early as 972 AD, the two nations have long traded in goods and commodities, but also in knowledge and ideas.

Generations of Chinese have assimilated themselves since. By some estimates, ethnic Chinese comprised around 1.6 percent of the Philippine population in 2005, with Filipinos of Chinese ancestry accounting for as much as 25 percent.

The Chinese-Filipino community is invariably a vital component to Philippine history, culture and economic development, as shown in their varied contributions to society—from trade and commerce to civic organizations and community-building initiatives.

This bill seeks to recognize these contributions and formally respect the long-held traditions of the Chinese-Filipino Community, by declaring the celebration of Chinese New Year as a Special Non-Working Holiday.

By underscoring how Chinese-Filipinos have played (and continue to play) a vital role in Filipino history and nation-building, this measure also fulfils the mandate of the state "to foster the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity" as enshrined in Article XIV, Section 4 of the Philippine Constitution.

Swift passage of this measure is therefore sought.


SENATOR SONNY ANGARA



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

'13 NOV -7 P5 :18

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S. B. No. 1908

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
DECLARING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC
HOLIDAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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

Session 1. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared a policy of the government to recognize the great contributions of the Chinese-Filipino in Philippine society and their cultural traditions.

Session 2. Special Non-Working Public Holiday. The Chinese New Year is hereby declared a special non-working public holiday in the whole country every year.

Session 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of the Labor and Employment in consultation with the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Session 4. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in two newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,