

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

18 JAN 23 AM 1:33

SENATE
S. No. 1664

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE
DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 23 January 1899, the Malolos Constitution was officially promulgated and the First Philippine Republic proclaimed and inaugurated at the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan. On the same day, Emilio Aguinaldo took his oath of office as President of the First Philippine Republic.

The First Philippine Republic put the Philippines, then a nation fresh from both the Philippine Revolution against Spain and the Spanish-American War between Spain and the United States, into the world map by distinguishing the Philippines as the first independent republic in Asia. In his Proclamation of the Constitutional Republic of the Philippines on 23 January 1899, President Emilio Aguinaldo famously said, "Great is this day, glorious this date, and forever memorable this moment in which our beloved people are raised to the apotheosis of Independence."

Indeed, January 23 is significant today, as it was then, for proving to the world that Filipinos are capable of self-rule and self-determination, even after more than 300 hundred years of colonization by Spain. Truly, the First Philippine Republic was the beginning of, and the foundation upon which was established, the democracy which we so cherish today.

It is therefore important that January 23 of every year be commemorated as The First Philippine Republic Day to remind us of our brave forebears and of our fight for freedom.

Foregoing reasons considered, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.


RICHARD J. GORDON

Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as "The First Philippine Republic
2 Day."

3 **SEC. 2. The First Philippine Republic Day.** The 23rd of every year is hereby declared
4 as "The First Philippine Republic Day", which shall be a special working holiday in the
5 entire country to commemorate the declaration of the First Philippine Republic on 23
6 January 1899 at the Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan.

7 **SEC. 3. Commemoration Activities.** The National Historical Commission of the
8 Philippines, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall plan and implement
9 activities for "The First Philippine Republic Day" and ensure that the significance of this
10 historical event shall continue to inspire and instill pride in the Philippines' rich history.

11 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act
12 is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions of this Act
13 which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

14 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** - All acts, laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of
15 instructions and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with any provision
16 of this Act are hereby repealed and or modified accordingly.

17 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
18 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 *Approved,*