

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



Office of the Secretary

'18 SEP -3 P3:48

SENATE
S.B. NO. 1975

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "MARCELO H. DEL PILAR
NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Marcelo H. Del Pilar is the most famous journalist in our history and is also considered as the father of Philippine Journalism. His contributions as a lawyer, revolutionary, and propagandist emulates his patriotism, bravery, and intelligence.

As the father of Philippine Journalism, Del Pilar founded the *Diariong Tagalog* where he exposed the atrocities committed by the Spanish friars against the Filipinos of the time. The articles by Del Pilar sparked the defiance of ordinary Filipinos against the friars. In fear of a revolution, the friars pressured the government to take action. Thus, Del Pilar escaped to Spain where he joined the Filipino Propaganda Movement and also became the editor-in-chief of *La Solidaridad*. Initially, *La Solidaridad*, the newspaper of the Filipino propagandists, aimed for assimilation of the Philippines as a province of Spain. As the publication of the newspaper halted, Del Pilar rejected the theory of assimilation and inspired the *Katipunan* to revolt against the Spanish rule.

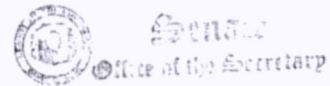
This bill seeks to declare August 30 of every year, which is the birth date of Del Pilar, as the "Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day" to recognize and respect the Freedom of the Press as embodied in Section 4, Article

III of our Constitution. In addition, this bill seeks to honor the patriotic deeds of Del Pilar and to heighten awareness about press freedom to encourage the press to report matters of public interests.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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



'18 SEP -3 P3:48

SENATE
S.B. NO. 1975

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "MARCELO H. DEL PILAR
NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

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

1 Section 1. In recognition of the vital role of the press in nation building as
2 well as to increase awareness of the public about press freedom so that
3 journalists will be encouraged not be afraid to report matters of public interest,
4 August 30 of every year is hereby declared as "Marcelo H. Del Pilar National
5 Responsible Press Freedom Day".

6

7 Sec. 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the celebration as herein
8 declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including
9 government-owned and controlled corporations as well as local government
10 units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford sufficient
11 time and opportunity for their employees to engage and participate in any
12 activity conducted within the premises of their offices or establishments to
13 celebrate the "Philippine Press Freedom Day".

14

15 Sec. 3. The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education,
16 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in coordination with
17 the Presidential Communications Operations Office, other government media
18 organizations, with the cooperation and support of private media organizations,

1 shall lead public and private school communities, at all levels, in organizing
2 consciousness-raising activities on the importance of the press responsibility, the
3 freedom of the press and ways to protect the press people from threats,
4 intimidation and violence. The same activities shall also be made available to
5 other interested public and private organizations.

6

7 *Sec. 4. Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision
8 of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of the other
9 sections or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

10

11 *Sec. 5. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
12 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
13 circulation.

Approved,