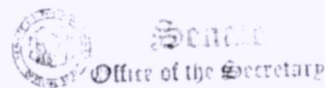


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 670



'19 JUL 22 P2:15

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution assures press freedom by stating that, "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press x x x".

The freedom of the press is an essential part of our history and an important component of our nationhood. Marcelo Hilario del Pilar, who was a writer and journalist under the pen name "Plaridel" and regarded as the father of Philippine journalism, contributed significantly to the freedom that the press is enjoying now and is endeavouring to enjoy.

There are many challenges in ensuring the freedom of the press in the country but all the stakeholders are continually contributing their share to uphold this constitutional right. For more reasons than one, the thriving press freedom in the country is worth celebrating.

This measure proposes the declaration of "National Press Freedom Day", and designates it to be August 30, the date of birth of Marcelo H. del Pilar. It mandates the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),

and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to organize activities that will inform and educate the public about the importance of the press, their rights and social responsibilities, and the elimination of all forms of violence against the press.

This measure was already approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress but remained pending in the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media.

The immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

SENATE

S. No. 670



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL 22 P2:15

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM
DAY"

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

1 Section 1. August 30 of every year is hereby declared as "National Press
2 Freedom Day" in honor of Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the father of Philippine Journalism,
3 who wrote under the pen name "Plaridel", and who was born on August 30, 1850.

4 Sec. 2. To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of National Press
5 Freedom Day, all government agencies and instrumentalities, the Armed Forces of the
6 Philippines, the Philippine National Police, government-owned and controlled
7 corporations, local government units, as well as the private sector shall afford
8 sufficient time and opportunity for their employees to engage and participate in any
9 related activity to be conducted in the premises of their respective offices or
10 establishments.

11 Sec. 3. The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education,
12 and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in consultation with the
13 Office of the President, government and private media organizations shall lead public
14 and private schools at all levels in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the
15 importance of the press, their rights and social responsibilities, and the elimination of
16 all forms of violence against the press.

1 Sec. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
2 Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

3

4 Approved,