

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



Senate

Office of the Secretary

'19 SEP 11 P1 58

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SENATE
S. No. 1035

Introduced by SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AN ACT
DESIGNATING THE 3RD SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER ANNUALLY AS THE
PHILIPPINE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS,
SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The August 2019 report of the Philippine Statistics Authority shows just how deadly road crashes are. Covering the period of 2006-2017, road crashes never fail to be at the very top of the list of causes of death in the Philippines for teenagers and young adults. What is even more alarming is that the same report reflects a steady increase in the deaths of Filipinos across all age groups in that 12-year period.

Whether or not they end in death, these road crashes are clearly not only statistical causes of death, but, at the very least, are also harbingers of suffering and loss. The irony is that while the road represents an indispensable aspect of commercial and industrial development, it now also stands as a threat to life, especially for the young. Hence, the family and friends whom the victims leave behind are caught in between a dilemma – on one hand, one feels the anguish of losing a loved one, and on the other hand, one has to accept the road as a necessary fact of life.

In 1993, Road Peace in the United Kingdom spearheaded the celebration of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. Since then, the celebration has been organized by various non-government organizations all over the world, including the European Federation for Road Traffic Victims (FEVR).

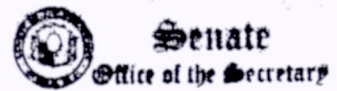
The Philippines is a co-author of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/255, entitled "Improving Global Road Safety", issued by the United Nations General Assembly on March 2, 2010. The Resolution expressly encourages all Member States to commit themselves more strongly to road safety, and this entails observing the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. On the part of the Philippines, such observance would be a surefire way to show the country's heartfelt concern for the seemingly steady increase in the number of road traffic casualties, and at the same time would signify the State's intention to enlist the help of the private sector in remedying this problem.

This bill seeks to declare the 3rd Sunday of November of each year as the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors, and Families. This bill takes inspiration from the painful and poignant collective experience of Families of Road Victims and Survivors Association Philippines, a civic organization founded in May 2011. It is hoped that through this measure, the agonizing dilemma between the road as a threat and the road as a fact will be given a middle ground – remembering the lives of loved ones lost, and committing to the need to build better roads.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Dela Rosa", written over a horizontal line.

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SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*National Day of*
2 *Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors, and Families.*"

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to ensure the
5 protection and safety of its people from any form of road hazards and to value human
6 lives by way of remembering the victims of road crashes and recognizing the sufferings
7 of their affected families and communities. Toward this end, the State shall raise the
8 awareness of the people on the causes, consequences, and costs of road deaths and
9 injuries, and for the strengthening of road safety advocacy to prevent such incidents.

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1 Sec. 3 *Commemoration Day.* - Every 3rd Sunday of November each year is hereby
2 declared as the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors, and
3 Families.

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5 Sec. 4. *Activities.* To ensure the meaningful observance of the day as herein
6 declared, the activities shall be undertaken under each province including, but not
7 limited to:

- 8 a) Special commemoration to remember all road crash victims by way of religious
9 mass services and flower laying ceremonies;
- 10 b) Special blood donation campaign as coordinated through the Department of
11 Health, Philippine Blood Center, and the Philippine Red Cross;
- 12 c) Special recognition day for emergency/rescue personnel, volunteers, and
13 stakeholders;
- 14 d) Public awareness campaign, solidarity march, and road safety summit;
- 15 e) Information dissemination via government agencies and websites;
- 16 f) Database registry of road crash victims, survivors, and families with the
17 Philippine National Police.

18
19 Sec. 5. *Implementing Agencies.* - The Department of Transportation (DOTR)
20 in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and
21 Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social
22 Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Philippine
23 National Police (PNP), and local government units shall establish programs for the
24 meaningful commemoration of the Memorial Day. It may also call upon other related
25 government agencies and non-government organizations to assist in its preparation
26 and the full implementation of the activities.

27
28 Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
29 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected shall
30 continue to be in full force and effect.

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1 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provisions of laws, orders, agreements, rules
2 or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
3 amended, or modified accordingly.

4 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
5 complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

6 Approved,

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