

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

SENATE
S. No. 1324

20 FEB -5 P3:13

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS

**AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This year, the cooperative movement in the Philippines is celebrating its 105th year anniversary.

In more than 100 years, there are more than 20,000 cooperatives registered in the Cooperative Development Authority with approximately 11 million individual members. These cooperatives produced billions of pesos worth of goods and services and have generated around 600,000 direct and indirect employment.

This showcases the significant contribution of the cooperative movement in our national development.

Through its various programs and services, the cooperative movement contributes to the development and governance of communities, improvement of quality of life of families, and empowerment of individuals, particularly the poor and the marginalized.

This showcases the significant contribution of the cooperative movement as an instrument in promoting social justice and social development.

Given the importance of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice and economic development, and the recognition of the State to the right of the cooperatives to initiate and foster within their own ranks cooperative promotion and organizations, this bill seeks to institutionalize the annual celebration of the principles, values, and contribution of the cooperative movement by declaring the month of October of every year as National Cooperative Month.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

RISA HONTIVEROS
Senator



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AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

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

1 **Sec. 1. Designation.** - The month of October of every year is hereby declared as the
2 National Cooperative Month.

3
4 **Sec. 2. Goals and Aspirations.** - The National Cooperative Month aims to:

- 5
6 a. Raise public awareness on the invaluable contributions of the cooperative in
7 sustainable development, poverty reduction, employment generation, and
8 social integration;
9
10 b. Highlight the strengths of the cooperative business model as an alternative
11 means of doing business and furthering socio-economic development;
12
13 c. Further strengthen the cooperative movement by increasing public awareness
14 about cooperatives and their contributions to advance national development,
15 community empowerment, and quality of life of families and individuals; and
16
17 d. Institutionalize annual celebration of the cooperative and its contribution.

18
19 **Sec. 3. Theme.** - The Cooperative Development Authority, through its Chairperson and
20 Board of Directors, in partnership with the National Cooperative Development Council
21 shall determine the theme of the annual celebration.

22
23 **Sec. 4. Implementation Structure.** - The Chairperson of the Cooperative
24 Development Authority, as the lead, in coordination with cooperative development
25 councils, national and local federations and union of cooperatives, and other
26 government agencies of the government, is mandated to conduct activities and
27 programs that promote the principles and values of cooperatives and encourage
28 cooperative movement.

29
30 **Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days after the
31 effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority shall
32 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

33
34 **Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.**- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
35 publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

36
37 *Approved,*