EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Second Regular Session

E-FILED ZZ DA TE: Jan 21 2021 M TIME: 5:00 p.m.

SENATE S. B. No. <u>2012</u>

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL YOUTH DAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1999, through Resolution 54/120, the United Nations (UN) designated August 12 of every year as the International Youth Day as a reminder that young men and women are essential partners in community-building and human development. Two decades since the Resolution was approved, countries are now witnessing how the youth shape nations through their actions — whether via social media, civic works, or pioneering and innovative industries. In fact, the theme of 2020's International Youth Day was "Youth Engagement for Global Action" which, according to the United Nations, sought to "highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes."

While the ongoing pandemic has dampened the prospects of many of our Filipino youth in terms of gaining meaningful employment and has contributed to an increase in young people with mental health issues, the country benefitted from the efforts of the youth especially during the early moments of the pandemic and the various lockdowns. Outside those of the government's, many of the relief operations and assistance programs, as well as movements to secure personal protective equipment (PPEs) for our frontliners, were initiated by young men and women.

Hence, this measure – aligning with the intent of the International Youth Day – seeks to recognize the vital role of the youth in the development of a community and institute programs which will engage our young Filipinos to participate in nation-building. Through programs aimed at empowering the youth, the country would be able to harness this very productive human resource which can strongly lead to social reforms, economic growth and innovation.

While the adage of the youth being the country's hope has grown old and overused, its message undeniably remains true. In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.

SONNY ANGARA

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "National Youth Day Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and which has led to measures such as Republic Act No. 8044 which created the National Youth Commission (NYC) to be the leading government arm in harnessing the full potential of the youth as partners in nation building and Republic Act No. 10742 or the "Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015" which provided a strong framework to encourage the youth not only to participate in governmental activities and public and civic affairs but to also develop a sense of leadership at patriotism.

SEC. 3. *National Youth Day.* – In observance of International Youth Day, the twelfth (12th) day of August of every year is hereby declared as National Youth Day.

SEC. 4. *Program of Activities.* — To ensure the meaningful observance of National Youth Day, the National Youth Commission (NYC), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall prepare and implement an annual program of activities including, but not limited to, discussions and/or forums on career paths, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environment

preservation, gender equality, and mental health. For this purpose, the NYC may engage in partnerships with local and international youth organizations suitable to providing these discussions. The youth organizations and youth-serving organizations shall likewise support the NYC in its effort to promote and facilitate related activities in all public and private schools.

All schools, colleges, and universities are hereby enjoined to launch activities such as leadership training, youth empowerment, workshops, basic mass integration, and community immersion activities in celebration of National Youth Day. Furthermore, the respective administration of schools, colleges, and universities shall extend their full support to all activities to be conducted by their students.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* —The NYC, in coordination with DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* —This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,