Senate
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SENATE
S.B. No. 2129

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

AN ACT DECLARING EVERY 26TH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS PHILIPPINES-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP DAY

Explanatory Note

The Philippines and France have a strong historical and cultural relationship between its government and people. Even before the signing of the Treaty of Amity in 1947, the French and Filipino people have had strong ties with one another. For example, in 1819, Paul Proust de la Gironière, a traveler from Nantes, arrived in the Philippines and helped establish the country's first modern farm system in the modern day Rizal province. On June 26, 2022, the two countries celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations, which highlights their significant economic and cultural exchanges.

In addition, the friendship of the French and Filipino people continue to flourish with the help of organizations like the Alliance Française which are based in Manila and Cebu, which teaches French language and culture to Filipino students. Moreover, there have been a growing number of Filipino students who are taking graduate degrees in France. On the other end, a multitude of French volunteers have also decided to come to the Philippines and contribute to helping the unprivileged.

With that being said, this bill seeks to declare every 26th of June of every year as the Philippines-France Friendship Day to commemorate the deep ties between the Philippines and France.

In light of this, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Raffy T. Tulfo
Senator

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

1   **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to strengthen

2   the relationship between the Philippines and such countries with which it shares

3   historical, cultural and trade relations, in order to bring their respective peoples into

4   closer contact and better understanding of each other's history, culture and economy.

5

6   **SEC. 2.** *Philippines-France Friendship Day* - The Twenty- Sixth of June of

7   each year is hereby declared a national working holiday known as *"Philippines- France*

8   *Friendship Day"* to commemorate the cultural and historical ties, friendship and

9   cooperation between the Philippines and France.

10

11   **SEC. 3.** *Implementation* - The National Historical Institute (NHI) shall be

12   responsible for the implementation of this Act. For this purpose, it shall, upon

13   consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Department of

14   Budget and Management (DBM), formulate and issue the implementing rules and

15   regulations necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

16

17   **SEC. 4.** *Appropriations* - An annual budget for the celebration of the

18   Philippines-France Friendship Day in the amount of Fifteen million pesos (Php

19   15,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year

1   following its enactment into law, fifty percent (50%) of which shall be devoted

2   exclusively for research and development, publication and information. Thereafter, the

3   expenses for its continued implementation shall be included in the subsequent General

4   Appropriations Act.

5

6   **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause*** - If any section or provision of this Act is held

7   unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall

8   remain valid and effective.

9

10   **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,

11   rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions

12   of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13

14   **SEC. 7. *Effectivity*** - This law shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from

15   publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,