

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



24 FEB 19 P3:09

**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 2556**

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**Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III**

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**AN ACT DECLARING  
THE 19<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL DAY  
FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE “PHILIPPINES –  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FRIENDSHIP DAY”**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) established diplomatic relations on 19 August 1974. Their relationship is based on rich historical, cultural, and economic ties.

In fact, the UAE is the Philippines’ 17th largest trading partner and the top export market among all Gulf Cooperation Council member States. Additionally, the UAE is the second home to one of the largest populations of overseas Filipinos in the Middle East and well-known and home-grown Filipino brands and businesses<sup>1</sup> such as Jollibee, Bench, Chowking etc.

This bill seeks to dedicate August 19<sup>th</sup> as a special day to honor the long-standing relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.

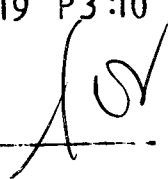
In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

**AQUILINO “KOKO” PIMENTEL III**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/ph-usa-to-forge-comprehensive-econ-partnership>

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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Office of the Secretary  
24 FEB 19 P3:10  
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SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 2556

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Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

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AN ACT  
DECLARING THE 19<sup>th</sup> OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS A  
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE  
“PHILIPPINES – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FRIENDSHIP  
DAY”

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

1           **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State  
2 to pursue an independent foreign policy in its relations with other  
3 States. It is also the policy of the State to put value to its existing  
4 bilateral relations with other States and to commemorate and celebrate  
5 these bilateral relations annually, and on their special occasions like the  
6 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversaries of the said bilateral relations.

7  
8           **SEC. 2. Diplomatic Relations.** - The Philippines and the United  
9 Arab Emirates established their diplomatic relations on August 19,  
10 1974. Therefore, the 19<sup>th</sup> of August of every year is hereby declared as  
11 a Special Day for the commemoration of the “Philippines – United  
12 Arab Emirates Friendship Day”.

13  
14           **SEC. 3. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Foreign  
15 Affairs shall lead the Government in the commemoration and  
16 celebration of the “Philippines – United Arab Emirates Friendship

1 Day” annually, and on other special occasions like, but not limited to,  
2 the 50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, and 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversaries.

3  
4 **SEC 4. *Special Day Status.*** - The Special Day status of the date  
5 herein referred to in Section 2 shall not affect its classification as either  
6 a working or a non-working day as determined by some other more  
7 specific law.

8  
9 **SEC. 5. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the  
10 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
11 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the  
12 continued implementation hereof shall be included in the annual  
13 General Appropriations Act.

14  
15 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders,  
16 proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are  
17 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified  
18 accordingly.

19  
20 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
21 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)  
22 newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*