

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



24 APR 22 P 3:49

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2639

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE 8th OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – GERMANY FRIENDSHIP DAY”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and Germany established their bilateral relationship on October 8, 1954. Since then, the relationship between Germany and the Philippines has thrived on diplomatic collaboration, resilient trade connections, active cultural exchanges, and substantial support for development efforts.

Some of the major German companies operating in the Philippines include Deutsche Bank (banking), Bosch (automotive after-market and power tools business), Siemens (information and communications), STEAG State Power Inc. (SPI) 210-megawatt hard-coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental, and Bayer Philippines Inc.¹

Recently, it was reported that Manila and Berlin will also formalize a cooperation program between the Technical Education and

¹ https://pco.gov.ph/news_releases/germany-expresses-support-for-ph-eu-fta-negotiation/

Skills Development Authority and Germany's Federal Institute for Vocational and Training.²

This bill seeks to dedicate October 8th as a special day to honor the long-standing relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany.

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1220360>

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Office of the Secretary

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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 50th, 75th, and 100th year anniversaries of the said bilateral relations.

7
8 **SEC. 2. Diplomatic Relations.** - The Philippines and Germany
9 established their diplomatic relations on October 8, 1954. Therefore,
10 the 8th of October of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for
11 the commemoration of the “Philippines – Germany Friendship Day”.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Implementing Agency.** - The Department of Foreign
14 Affairs (DFA) shall lead the Government in the commemoration and
15 celebration of the “Philippines – Germany Friendship Day” annually,

1 and on other special occasions such as, but not limited to, the 75th and
2 100th 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 for the initial
10 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current
11 appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the
12 continued implementation of this Act 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,