

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



24 APR 22 P 3:50

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2640

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE 9th OF JULY OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – ITALY FRIENDSHIP DAY”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and Italy established their bilateral relationship on July 9, 1947, starting with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and General Relations in Rome.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947, the Philippines and Italy have concluded several agreements. These agreements, among others, include those pertaining to scientific and technical cooperation, air services, taxation, investments, development cooperation, culture, social security, small and medium enterprises, transportation and communications, and defense.

Last year, our government, through the Department of Agriculture (DA), invited Italian private businesses to invest in the Philippines through modernizing agricultural facilities. Total agri-food trade between the Philippines and Italy amounted to USD272 million in 2022, up by 50 percent from the total value of agri-food bilateral trade in 2020, the height of the coronavirus pandemic, and higher by 10 percent from the bilateral agri-food trade value in 2021.¹

¹ <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1212675>

According to the Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO), Italy ranked as the top 5 country of destination among Filipino emigrants from 1981 to 2019, accounting for 1.67% of the overall Filipino emigration population in this period, totaling 41,714 emigrants.

This bill seeks to dedicate July 9th as a special day to honor the long-standing partnership between the Philippines and Italy.

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


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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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 Italy
9 established their diplomatic relations on July 9, 1947. Therefore, the 9th
10 of July of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for the
11 commemoration of the “Philippines – Italy 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 – Italy Friendship Day” annually, and
16 on other special occasions such as the 100th year anniversary.

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

5
6 **SEC. 5. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial
7 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current
8 appropriations of the DFA. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the
9 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
10 General Appropriations Act.

11
12 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders,
13 proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are
14 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
15 accordingly.

16
17 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
18 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
19 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,