


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



24 APR 22 P3:51

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 2642

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III

AN ACT
DECLARING THE 26th OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL DAY FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
“PHILIPPINES – FRANCE FRIENDSHIP DAY”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines and France established their bilateral relationship on June 26, 1947. Our countries have engaged in regular high-level visits and consultations, demonstrating our commitment to maintaining open channels of communication and cooperation.

In 2022, total trade between the Philippines and France grew to USD 1.8 billion, up by 23 percent, from its 2021 level of USD 1.5 billion. In particular, Philippine exports to France were up by nearly 50 percent from USD 514 million in 2021 to USD 756 million in 2022.¹

Last November 2023, the Philippines and France marked a notable advancement in their diplomatic relations with the successful conclusion of the third Philippines-France High-Level Political Consultations Meeting held in Paris. Both countries underscored their shared belief and respect for the UN Charter, sovereignty, multilateralism, and peaceful settlement of international conflicts which makes a strong basis for the partnership.²

¹ <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/ph-france-bolster-economic-cooperation-during-10th-jec-meeting/>

² <https://dfa.gov.ph/dfa-news/dfa-releasesupdate/33708-philippines-and-france-forge-stronger-diplomatic-bond-for-future-collaboration>

This bill seeks to dedicate June 26th as a special day to honor the long-standing relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and the French Republic.

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 France
9 established their diplomatic relations on June 26, 1947. Therefore, the
10 26th of June of every year is hereby declared as a Special Day for the
11 commemoration of the “Philippines – France 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 – France 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,