


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Second Regular Session*

6 MAR 29 P5:31

RECEIVED BY: 

**SENATE**

S. No. 2237

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY B. VILLAR, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Filipina has always been a key figure in our country's history and in the building of our nation's identity. Her role in society is not only limited to the home—where she has traditionally been relegated—but reaches the political sphere as well. Her influence can be traced back to the pre-colonial times; we have stories of the legendary Queen Maniwantiwan, the wife of Datu Marikudo, whose consent had to be secured before he could sell his lands to the Bornean immigrants led by Datu Puti. Then there was Princess Urduja of Pangasinan, supposedly possessing not only beauty, but also courage and intelligence.

Our revolutionary stories are not without female figures. Side by side with Diego Silang as he fought off the Spaniards was his wife, Gabriela. Another is Tandang Sora, who, despite her age, provided refuge, hope, and inspiration to ailing Katipuneros.

The OFWs, often touted as modern-day heroes, are also mostly women. One could only imagine a mother's grief of having to leave her children, only to take care of another's.

These are but a few of the gallant women who have stepped up to the challenge of their times, forsaking personal comfort and safety, for the greater good. Many remain nameless, outside the annals of history, their valor unrecognized, if not completely forgotten.


The best way to recognize women as an indispensable sector of our society is to designate a day to honor them.

In view of the above, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
MANNY B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT  
TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS A  
WORKING SPECIAL HOLIDAY  
TO BE KNOWN AS WOMEN'S DAY**

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

SECTION 1. The eighth of March of every year is hereby declared as a working special Holiday to be known as "Women's Day".

SECTION 2. To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations as well as local government units and employers in the private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of their respective offices or establishments to celebrate Women's Day.

3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.