

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

17th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **477**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by: HON. JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the First Republic in Asia, our country must be proud of our strong democratic and republican ideals as a nation. It was 12 June 1898 when General Emilio Aguinaldo declared the Philippines free from the yoke of foreign subjugation. The upheaval of nationalistic fervor leading to our independence was followed with cool and calm thought to make the gains for Philippine democracy and republicanism more lasting and permanent through the enactment of the first organic law for the Philippine Republic.

The significance of 23 January 1899 is the First Philippine Republic came into being as the sovereign choice of the people. It is a conscious choice to reject dictatorial and revolutionary government and establish for all the future Filipino generations the groundwork for democracy.

It is therefore of much importance that we need to commemorate 23 January every year. As the beginning of Filipino democracy and self-government, indigenously concluded, magnifies the political maturity and readiness of our forefathers at the turn of that century.

Our beliefs and aspirations as a nation, united in pursuit for life, liberty and enjoyment of the benefits of our democracy, is encapsulated by our rich and noble history. I hope that we can give due recognition with this great feat and achievement of our forefathers in commemorating 23 January as a national holiday.

For this reason, the adoption of this measure is most sought for.

[Signature]

HON. JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

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Introduced by: HON. JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

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

- SEC. 1. This Act shall be known as "The First Philippine Republic Day".
- SEC. 2. January 23 of every year is hereby declared as "the First Philippine Republic Day" which shall be a special working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the declaration of the First Philippine Republic on January 23, 1899, held at the Barasoain in the City of Malolos, Province of Bulacan.
- SEC. 3. The National Historical Commission, in coordination with the Department of Education, shall plan and implement activities for "The First Philippine Republic Day" and ensure that the significance of this historical event will continue to inspire and instill of pride on the rich and noble history of the Filipino nation.
- SEC. 4. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.
- SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portions thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
- SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.