



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5801



Introduced by Honorable Hussin U. Amin

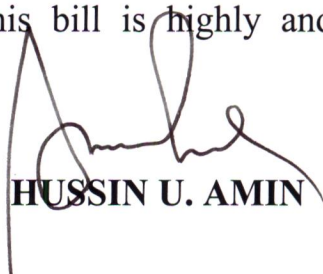
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the third week of September of every year as “National Peace Consciousness Week.”

In most Asian countries, the culture of war and violence still rages. Soldiers and rebels are fighting while civilians who are caught in the middle are suffering and dying. The Philippine government is no exception. It still has to make peace with the enemies of the State which include communists and Muslim rebels. Peace is undeniably relevant to the country’s development especially in Muslim Mindanao. Thus, the government works and exerts all efforts to achieve peace.

There is a need, therefore, to instill greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people on the comprehensive peace process. We must strengthen and sustain institutional and popular support for this effort, as well as in the global movement spearheaded by the United Nations to promote a culture of peace based on non-violence, respect for fundamental rights and freedom, tolerance, understanding and solidarity. Hence, this bill will also make Filipinos aware and appreciate the peace efforts and achievements of the government.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.


HUSSIN U. AMIN



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AN ACT
DECLARING THE THIRD WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS
“NATIONAL PEACE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK”

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

SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This shall be known as “*The National Peace Consciousness Week Act.*”

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the declared policy of the State to maintain peace and order, protect life, liberty and prosperity, and promote the general welfare of the people. The State renounces war as an instrument of national policy and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation, and amity with all nations.

SEC. 3. ***National Peace Consciousness Week.*** – The third (3rd) week of September of each year is hereby declared as the “National Peace Consciousness Week.”

SEC. 4. *Paths to Peace.* – To ensure the meaningful observance of the week as herein declared, six (6) major peace-making and peace-building components , otherwise known as “*Six Paths to Peace*,” shall be undertaken to serve as guidelines or basis for the program of activities during the celebration, as follows:

1. Pursuit of social, economic and political reforms to address the root causes of armed conflicts and social unrest;
2. Consensus-building and empowerment for peace through consultations and people participation;
3. Peaceful, negotiated settlement with different rebel groups and effective implementations of peace agreements;
4. Program for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society and rehabilitation of former rebels and their communities;
5. Addressing concerns arising from continuing armed conflicts, such as the protection of non-combatants and the reduction of the impact of armed conflicts on communities; and
6. Building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace through peace education and advocacy program and confidence-building measures.

SEC. 5. ***Coordinating Body.*** – The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) shall be the lead government agency to coordinate and monitor the observance of the “*National Peace Consciousness Week.*”

SEC. 6. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,