

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6032



Introduced by **HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since 1947, it is evident that the relationship of the Philippines and France has led to various fruitful endeavors, friendship and cooperation. This is presently sealed with both country's continued cooperation in the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentarians for Global Action which manifests their firm commitment to such ends.

It is indeed undeniable that we live in an international community today where countries are more interdependent—making progress and development more achievable. Thus the need for continued parliamentary cooperation is realized in order to encourage and support more interaction between governments and peoples.

The Philippines and France have been at arms in forging various alliances calling for inter-country or international cooperation for global peace, among other global endeavors. It is thus on June 26, 1947 that the Philippines and France signed the Treaty of Amity. It is this treaty which established diplomatic relations between these two countries.

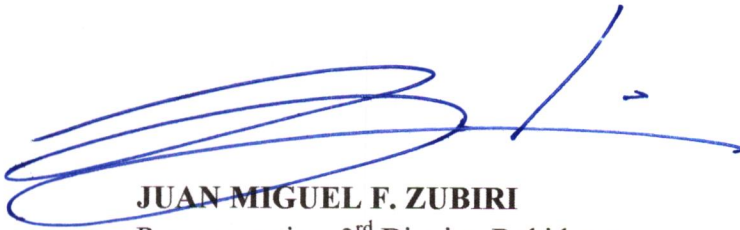
Underlying this alliance is the continued cooperation and amity between the Philippines and France. This is thus a concrete example of the Philippine's adherence to Section 2, Article II of the 1987 Constitution where it provides that "Section 2. The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation and amity with all nations."

Historically, France stood, advocated and influenced the world to embrace freedom, democracy and economic development. This is the one of the consequences of the French Bourgeois Revolution where France progressed from feudalism into the era of the nation-state with a more empowered citizenry.

From economic progress and advocacy of freedom and democracy, France also forged an alliance with the Philippines in combating degradation of and conservation and preservation of the environment. In recent times, the Philippines and France have joined in a project calling for the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which the Stockholm Convention started.

This Act seeks to permanently etch this dynamic and well-established diplomatic relationship between the two countries in modern history by declaring the 26th day of June of every year Philippines-France Friendship Day.

Passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
DECLARING EVERY 26TH OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS PHILIPPINES-FRANCE
FRIENDSHIP DAY

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize dynamic and well-established diplomatic relations of the country in order to enhance and advance continued parliamentary cooperation with nations ensuring the country's move for paramount national sovereignty, national interest and self-determination.

SECTION 2. Philippines-France Friendship Day. - This Act declares June 26, 1947—the date on which former Philippine President Elpidio Quirino and former President of the Republic of France Georges Bidault signed the Treaty of Amity between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and of the Republic of France.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the other provisions or their application to other persons or circumstances not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.