

Fifteenth Congress)
Republic of the Philippines)
Second Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5788

Introduced by Representative Maria Evita R. Arago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the observance of a National Children's Day on November 20 of every year. Section 3 of Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The Philippines, also a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, is to protect and preserve the rights of children to survival, development, and the freedom to protect their interests.

A number of children in the Philippines have been unfortunate victims of abuse, engagement in hazardous labor, child pornography, economic difficulties and life threatening situations. One of the means to protect the rights of children is to elevate the level of awareness among Filipinos on the rights and welfare of children. The heightened education and consciousness through the holding of activities observing the National Children's Day on the stipulations of the Convention of the Rights of the Child would help the cause of children in the furtherance of the protection of their rights.

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


MARIA EVITA R. ARAGO
3RD District of Laguna

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
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AN ACT

DECLARING NOVEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "National Children's Day Act."

Section 2. November 20 of every year is hereby declared as the "National Children's Day" to promote consciousness over the protection of the rights of Filipino children and the importance of fostering their well-being to secure the growth and development of society.

This declaration shall likewise commemorate the United Nations General Assembly ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in recognition of the United Nations celebration of Universal Children's Day.

Section 3. Pursuant to the observance of the National Children's Day, an annual program of activities shall be prepared and implemented with the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as lead agencies.

The DepEd shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this day in all private and public schools nationwide. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with the DSWD, DepEd, NYC and CWC shall ensure effective information dissemination of this Act.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,