

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 470



Introduced by
HON. AGAPITO H. GUANLAO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On March 21, 1989, Presidential Proclamation No. 33 was issued declaring the month of May every year as "Farmers and Fisherfolk" Month. The proclamation is needed timely as it coincides with so many farmers' and fisherfolk's celebrations such as the Carabao Festival in Pililan, Bulacan, the Pahiyas Festival in the Quezon Province and numerous Feasts, all in celebration of bountiful harvests of fluvial parades in celebration of the year's good catch. All these are undoubtedly celebrations in farming and fishery.

Pursuant to this Proclamation are also activities in farming communities such as Harvest Festivals that local government units celebrate, with gatherings of farmers and fisherfolk organizations.

However, and except for celebration of feasts, all others are less anticipated or even ignored.

This Representation has always been cognizant of the roles played by farmers and fisher folk but strongly believes that attention afforded to this social class does not even approach that of the working class who celebrates its day every May 1 each year.

It may be superfluous to delve into exact estimates of the farmers and fisher folk's contribution to the Philippine society and to other nations and societies for that matter. Suffice it to say that these classes or sectors weigh as much as others in every nation's purposeful strides toward building progressive and developed societies.

This proposed measure was filed before the 15th Congress as House Bill 1658, and remains relevant to this day. Thus, the passage of this piece of proposed legislation into law is earnestly sought.


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**AN ACT DECLARING MAY 15 OF EACH YEAR AS NATIONAL FARMERS AND
FISHERFOLK DAY**

Be it Enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled;

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that May 15 of each year as National Farmers
and Fisherfolk Day;

a. That May 15, is a Special Non-Working Holiday

SECTION 2. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days from the date of
its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers
of general circulation

Approved: