

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 657



Introduced by: Rep. Ma. Victoria 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 import 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.



HON. MA. VICTORIA R. SY-ALVARADO

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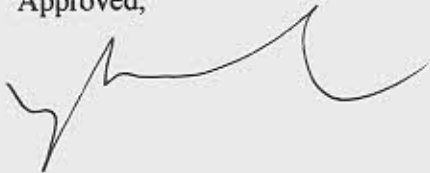
AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

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

SECTION 1. To commemorate the declaration of the First Philippine Republic held at the Barasoain Church in the City of Malolos, Province of Bulacan, January 23 of every year is hereby declared a national holiday in the entire country.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'V' or 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a curved flourish.