

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **4981**



Introduced by **Rep. Doy C. Leachon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. During the past decades, our country has endured from deadly typhoons, storm surge, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. According to studies, this is due to its location along the Ring of Fire, or typhoon belt – a large Pacific Ocean region where many of Earth's volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur. Annually, approximately 80 typhoons develop above tropical waters, of which 19 enter the Philippine region and six to nine make landfall in our country. Thus, the same are inevitable in our country.

Last November 8, 2013 Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda, considered as the strongest typhoon in the history of mankind had tattered Eastern Visayas. According to National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Update as of January 10, 2014, number of deaths were estimated to be at 6,190; 28,626 were reported injured and 1,785 are still missing. Cost of damages was estimated at PhpP 36,690, 882,497.27 with PhpP 18,336,576,527.39 for infrastructures and PhpP 18,354,305,869.88 for agriculture in Region IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII and CARAGA.



Typhoon Yolanda was the worst tropical cyclone that hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013, killing at least 6,201 people. Typhoon Yolanda caused huge destruction in the Visayas, particularly Samar and Leyte Provinces and accordingly, about 11 million people have been affected and many have been left without homes.

In view of this, there is a strong need to increase awareness, enhance education and curb these preventable catastrophic illnesses through the system wide approach triggered at the national level.

Planting trees on a national level will help address the ill effects of climate change through PPP project knowing very well that protecting the environment is everyone's concern in society.

The Philippines observes Arbor Day on 25 June by planting trees and ornamental plants and other forms of relevant activities pursuant to Proclamation No. 643, series of 2004 and other internationally-recognized environment-themed holidays, such as Earth Day on 22 April and World Earth Day on 25 June.

This piece of legislation is a measure to strengthen Senator Grace Poe's Resolution in the Senate entitled, "Joint Resolution on the observance of the "DAY OF RISING" in the Philippines beginning November 8 of this year- A day to plant trees, to meaningfully remember Arbor Day, and to rekindle the bayanihan spirit- venerating a year of survival after typhoon Yolanda.

Hence, the necessity and immediacy of approving this bill is of highly importance.


PAULINO SALVADOR "DOY" C. LEACHON

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**AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE "DAY OF RISING"-
A DAY TO PLANT TREES, TO MEANINGFULLY REMEMBER ARBOR DAY, AND
TO REKINDLE THE BAYANIHAN SPIRIT-VENERATING A YEAR OF SURVIVAL
AFTER TYPHOON YOLANDA.**

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This act shall be known as "The National Day of Rising Act of 2014".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared a policy of the State that it is her duty to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthy ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

The State recognizes the importance of protecting the right of the people to a balance and healthful ecology that the Supreme Court declared the State's mandate by affirming that right in the landmark case of Oposa vs. Factoran, G.R. No. 101083 that "...unless the right to a balanced and healthful ecology is protected...the day would not be far when all else would be lost for...generations which stand to inherit nothing but parched earth incapable of sustaining life".

Section 3. National Day of Rising. - November 8 of every year is hereby declared as National Day of Rising.

Section 4. Implementing Agency. - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Departments of Education and the Interior and Local Governments in coordination with the Climate Change Commission, and in partnership with the Civil Society, the academe and media shall be the lead agencies and shall plan and implement activities for the observance of the "National Day of Rising" by making available seeds, seedlings and plants.

Section 5. Effectivity.- This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,