

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

17th Congress
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **4845**



Introduced by **HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

February 14 has traditionally been celebrated as a day of love. This bill seeks to expand the definition of love from more than just romantic love, into celebrating family love by declaring February 14 of every year as a special working holiday to be known as the "National Family Day."

It is often, and quite aptly said, that the family is the nucleus of civilization. It is also referred to as the basic unit of society. The kinds of relationship fostered and the characteristics nurtured within a family are often reflected in larger societal units and this effect is correspondingly magnified up to the largest societal unit. To demonstrate a point, a community comprised of families that are economically stable, is also a community that is such. Hence, strengthening the family unit may well be the key to a stronger nation.

In the nation's current war against drugs, we see a staggering number of drug users and/or sellers coming out to seek help in resolving their drug dependence. Had they been given the opportunity in the past to be raised in a loving family that instills all the proper values in its children, they may have stood a huge chance against the drug menace. There is no time more appropriate than now to begin curbing the problem not only by trimming the foliage but addressing it from the roots. The drug menace has long thrived because the family environment has festered with misplaced values that have cultivated errant behavior.

The National Family Day shall celebrate and strengthen the family unit's contributions to nation-building and shall aim to remind Filipinos of its rights, capabilities, and responsibilities.

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

RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

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AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 14 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL FAMILY DAY

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 Family Day Act."

Section 2. To honor and to instill in our people the importance of nurturing the most basic unit of the community, the family, the 14th of February of every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday to be known as the "National Family Day".

Section 3. All government offices, private entities, and academic institutions are enjoined to extend their full support through the conduct of programs and activities to pay tribute to the family as the building block of a nation. The corresponding government agencies including, but not limited to, the Department of Education, Commission on Higher and Technical Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, and local government units shall prepare and adopt necessary policies for the observance of the National Family Day and to ensure the implementation of this Act.

Section 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,