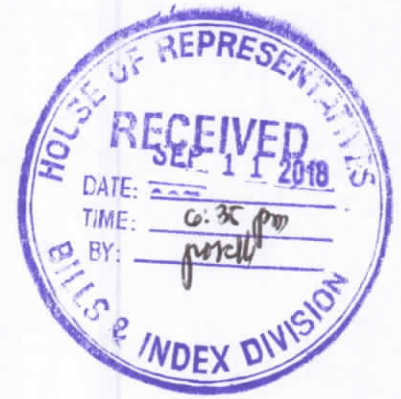


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. 8228



Introduced by KABATAAN Partylist Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR
AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF
MARTIAL LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On the 45th anniversary of Martial law in the Philippines, much needs to be said in the collective remembering and recovery of the victims of the aforementioned dark era in Philippine History. The past year, the Filipino people were witness to the sneak burial of the former dictator and father of the martial law regime Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Two generations have passed since the Marcos regime, and clearly, the memory of the period is under threat the moment government executives and legislators became complicit to its forgetting. We should not forget. We will never forget the countless deaths, disappearances and human rights violations under the martial rule, and we cannot forgive for we still feel the implications of the turbulent economy under the period.

This representation files this bill carrying the collective responsibility of the youth to never find themselves repeating the mistakes and conscious atrocities of the nation's dark ages. Likewise, the youth and the people will celebrate and remember the immense role of youth of generations' past when they struggled to remove a dictator from Malacañang.

This bill shall seek to solidify the state's remembrance of the day as it should be remembered. The author hopes that this will be essential in ensuring the state, on the other hand, does not forget its role in the recovery of the nation.

In view of this foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

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

1 SECTION 1. Short Title. - This act shall be known as the "National Day of Remembrance
2 Act".

3 SECTION 2. Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the
4 Philippines, the State values the dignity of every human, person and guarantees full respect
5 for human rights.

6 Pursuant to this declared policy, Section 12 of Article III of the Constitution prohibits the use
7 of torture, force, violence, threat, intimidation, or any other means which vitiate the free will
8 and mandates the compensation and rehabilitation of victims of torture or similar practices
9 and their families.

10 Consistent with the foregoing, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the
11 Filipinos who were victims of enforced or involuntary disappearance and other human rights
12 violations committed during the regime of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

13 SECTION 3. In recognition of the anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law under the
14 late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, this day will serve as a reminder for everyone that the martial
15 law declared in 1972 torched the beginning of a dark age in Philippine history that was ended
16 by the collective struggle of the Filipino people.

17 SECTION 4. The Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and other
18 socio-civic organization shall make efforts in producing an annual program of activities in
19 observance of National Day of Remembrance teaching students of the tremendous sufferings
20 of Filipinos during the Martial Law era.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
22 Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Party-list