

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

8271

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EMMI A. DE JESUS, ANTONIO L. TINIO, ARLENE D. BROSAS, FRANCE I. CASTRO, AND ARIEL B. CASILAO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Youth power is recognized in the world today as a mobilizing force of the social development. The youth are filled with tremendous energy and towering ambitions to be a catalyst of change in the society to transform the present times into a bright future. Recognizing the momentous role of the youth in the country, Dr. Jose Rizal once quoted that "The youth is the hope of our Motherland." As such, they are considered as a 'trustee' of the nation-building process who will establish the national identity and secure the essence of democracy by ensuring that the rights and liberties of our people are being upheld all the time.

The history even unveiled the heroism of the Filipino youth who sacrificed their lives for democracy. First Quarter Storm is a major event initiated by youth and other advocates to combat tyrannical rule and authoritarianism. It is a continuous movement from January 26, 1970 to March 1970 against the dictatorship of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

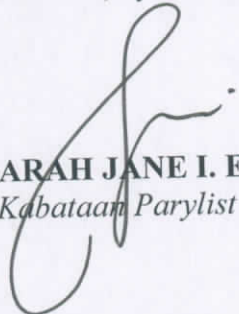
It all started when President Marcos was delivering his State of Nation's Address (SONA) on January 26, 1970. The youth demonstrators demanded for constitutional reform before the law enforcers responded with violent riot. On the following days, simultaneous demonstrations were held again for constitutional reform, and to express grievances against the police for the said incidence. Security forces reacted again with force until it caused the death of four (4) students and hundreds of wounded protesters. Series of demonstrations spread throughout the archipelago. As a response, President Marcos declared Martial Law that eventually transpired the death of democracy and the rise of totalitarian rule.

This event must not be buried in the past but rather considered as a success of the struggle of the Filipino people in ousting a dictator. The memories of the youth who fought to revive democracy and to defend the rights and liberties of the Filipino people must be respected as a foundation of realization of our dream to free ourselves from misery of fascist rule. Without their efforts, our society must

have been paralyzed up to the present due to the atmosphere of fear and agony persisted arising from excruciating oppression of the government and state violence against its people.

This bill seeks to declare a day, specifically, January 26, also the day that FQS started, as the day for commemoration of the anniversary for First Quarter Storm. During this proposed official anniversary of FQS, it will be a chance for every citizen to look back to the past and learn the lessons from the nightmare of the Marcos regime. It is the day we can repay and honor those youths who never feared to fight and sacrifice their lives in pursuit of their aspiration to establish the society whereby the freedom is respected and equality among the people is observed. Their fight is not an end but a beginning for our struggle toward democratic goal.

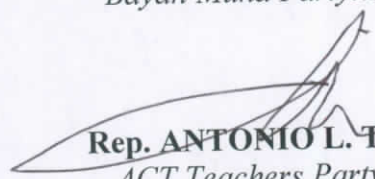
This representation earnestly seeks the passage of this bill at the most immediate possible time. Let this be a model for the international community, a step closer to a more informed, dynamic, and critical public crucial for democracy.



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

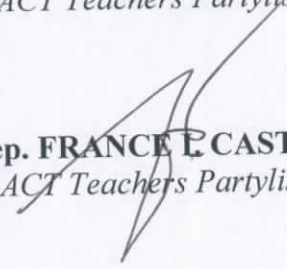
Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Partylist

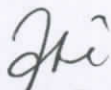


Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Partylist

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Partylist



Rep. FRANCES L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist



Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO
Anakpawis Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8271

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, EMMI A. DE JESUS, ANTONIO L. TINIO, ARLENE D. BROSAS, FRANCE I. CASTRO, AND ARIEL B. CASILAO

**AN ACT RECOGNIZING JANUARY 26 EVERY YEAR AS
OBSERVANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST QUARTER
STORM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

Section 1. Short Title – This Act shall be otherwise known or cited as “First Quarter Storm Anniversary Act.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. –

- (a) The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;
- (b) The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development; and
- (c) The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.

Section 3. On 26th of January of every year, school officials, student councils, and students shall undertake appropriate activities to commemorate the First Quarter Storm, such as, but not limited to forum, panel discussions, exhibits.

Section 4. The Role of Agencies Concerned –

- (a) *National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)*- The NHCP created pursuant to Republic Act 10086 shall lead its role in

implementation of historical education activity that seeks to educate the audience on the facts about First Quarter Storm. It shall coordinate with other agencies concerned for planning and implementation of the programs.

- (b) **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)**- It shall coordinate with NHCP for planning and implementation of educational activities on FQS to all the academic institutions in tertiary level. Furthermore, it shall allow all the universities and college under its jurisdiction, students, and faculties to conduct any activity inside their institutions with relevance to FQS.
- (c) **Department of Education (DepEd)**- It shall plan, with coordination of NHCP, any educational activities and discussions on FQS to all the students from primary, secondary and senior high school level. It shall give directives to all the schools under its jurisdiction to conduct an event that shall consist of academic, art, musical and cultural activities which shall inculcate nationalism and patriotism among the students.

Section 5. Appropriations Clause. -- The amounts necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the agencies. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. Separability Clause. — If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. — Any laws, decrees, or laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

Section 8. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Parylist

Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Partylist

Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Partylist

Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
Gabriela Women's Partylist

Rep. FRANCE I. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

Rep. ARIEL B. CASILAO
Anakpawis Partylist