

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2127

Introduced by Hon. Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 23 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.

On 01 June 1919, the Rotary Club of Manila was chartered and became the first Rotary Club not only in the Philippines, but in Asia. It took over a decade before the next clubs in the country would be organized, all of which in Visayas, the Rotary clubs of Cebu, Iloilo and Bacolod. Later on, a Rotary club was chartered in Davao in Mindanao. Today, there are nearly 900 Rotary clubs operating all over the Philippines, devoted to the service of Filipinos.

This bill seeks to declare February 23 of every year as “National Rotary Day”, to coincide with the annual anniversary celebration of Rotary in the Philippines, in recognition of its significant contributions to Filipinos for the past century. From providing facilities for the treatment of leprosy, to supporting various environmental, health and education causes, and to nationwide polio immunization efforts, among others, Rotary has been at the forefront of delivering services that actually impact Filipino communities.

The declaration of a special working holiday in honor of an organization that is known all over the country for its involvement in various socio-civic causes, sheds light on how the Constitutionally recognized role of civil society in nation-building is at work in the country. It is envisioned that through this nationwide recognition, the spirit of Rotary’s motto, “Service above self,” will spread even outside the organization, and inspire fellow Filipinos to take part and take action.

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


MARK O. GO

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AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR AS
THE NATIONAL ROTARY DAY

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

SECTION 1. *National Rotary Day.* – February 23 of every year is hereby declared as the “National Rotary Day”, a special working holiday in the entire country, in commemoration of the annual anniversary of Rotary in the Philippines, and in recognition of Rotary’s long history of providing humanitarian work to uplift the conditions of Filipino communities.

SEC. 2. *Effectivity.* –This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,