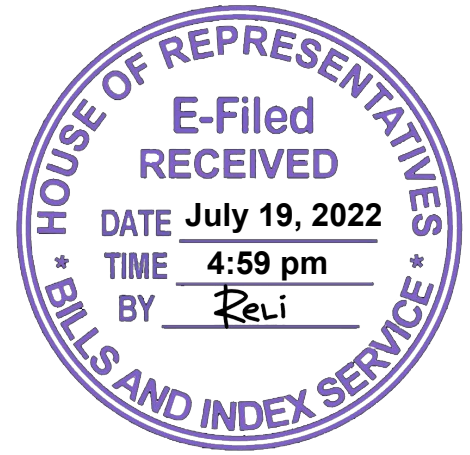


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2163



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,**
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

EXPLANATORY NOTE

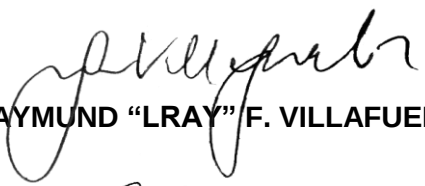
Article 12 of the 1987 Constitution recognizes cooperative as instruments of equity, social justice, and economic development. As of 2018, there are 18,065 registered cooperatives in the Philippines with 10.7 million members that account to almost 10% of the country’s population. Cooperatives also hold around Php 429.7 billion worth of assets and contributed Php 3.9 billion via indirect taxes. Cooperatives also contribute to ensuring employment with 580,800 direct and 1.9 million indirect employees.¹

In 2021, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon Lopez has lauded cooperatives for being essential allies in assisting and reaching small businesses with limited access to financial institutions and government agencies during the pandemic. He further added that cooperatives helped in extending government services to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the grassroots level especially those in far-flung areas of the country.²

This bill aims to recognize the vital role of cooperatives in our economy by institutionalizing the annual celebration of cooperative movement and declaring the month of October as National Cooperative Month. Through this, we further highlight the strengths of cooperative business model, promote its principles and values, and strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.

¹ <http://icaap.coop/sites/icaap.coop/files/DRAFT%202020%20Philippines%20country%20snapshot.pdf>
² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1155316>

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.



TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2163

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,**
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII

AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL
COOPERATIVE MONTH

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

Section 1. Designation. – The month of October of every year is hereby declared as the National Cooperative Month.

Sec. 2. Goals and Aspirations. – The National Cooperative Month aims to:

- a. Raise public awareness on the invaluable contributions of the cooperative in sustainable development, poverty reduction, employment generation, and social integration;
- b. Highlight the strengths of the cooperative business model as an alternative means of doing business and furthering socio-economic development;
- c. Further strengthen the cooperative movement by increasing public awareness about cooperatives and their contributions to advance national development, community empowerment, and quality of life of families and individuals; and
- d. Institutionalize annual celebration of the cooperative and its contribution.

Towards this end, the State shall introduce pro-active measures to raise the awareness of the public, especially the youth, on climate change and address the impact of global warming.

Sec. 3. Theme. – The Cooperative Development Authority, through its Chairperson and Board of Directors, in partnership with the National Cooperative Development Council shall determine the theme of the annual celebration.

Sec. 4. Implementation Structure. – The Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority, as the lead, in coordination with cooperative development councils, national and local federations and union of cooperatives, and other government agencies of the government, is mandated to conduct activities and programs that promote the principles and values of cooperatives and encourage cooperative movement.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Cooperative Development Authority shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,