



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4612**



Introduced by **HON. EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Rotary Club of the Philippines is a local chapter of Rotary International and has been present in the country for the past century, having been established in 1919. Since its founding, the Institution has spearheaded numerous humanitarian and socio-civic activities that further promoted the nation's welfare and improved the lives of many Filipinos.

The first Rotary Club in the country was founded in Manila and became the first Rotary Club in Asia.¹ After its organization, several Rotary Clubs across the country followed suit. Today, there are nearly 900 Rotary clubs all over the Philippines that continue to serve our citizen through charitable acts and community service.

The Rotary Club has been involved in many notable programs that include: environmental activities such as tree planting and clean-up drives; educational assistance such as scholarships and provision of books and school furniture; and health missions including information drives and immunization projects.

In light of the above-stated, this bill seeks to recognize the historic contributions of the Rotary Club in nation-building by declaring February 2023 of every year as Special Working Holiday to be known as "National Rotary Day."

A similar measure was approved on Third and Final Reading during the 18th Congress and was transmitted to the Senate for appropriate action.

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

EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA
Representative, 4th District of Manila

¹ The Philippines Leap to RAGFP #2! available at <https://rotaryactiongroupforpeace.org/phiippines-first-rotary-club-asia/> (last accessed September 4, 2022).



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**AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO BE KNOWN AS THE
“NATIONAL ROTARY DAY”**

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

SECTION 1. February 23 of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday in the entire country and shall be referred to as the “National Rotary Day” in recognition of the invaluable humanitarian contributions of the Rotary Club of the Philippines whose inspiring tradition of community service was pioneered by the Rotary Club of Manila, the first and oldest Rotary Club in Asia, which was established in 1919.

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

Approved,