

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8821



Introduced by Representatives Jose Ch. Alvarez and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare June 19 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the entire country in honor of the birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal to be known as "Araw ng Kapanganakan ni Dr. Jose P. Rizal," amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 11144.

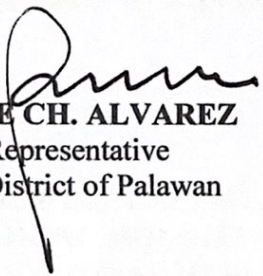
Every year on the 30th day of December, our nation commemorates Rizal's death anniversary. While Rizal traces his roots in Calamba, Laguna which commemorates the birth of Rizal every June 19 of the year by virtue of RA 11144, it is most fitting that said commemoration and celebration be extended to the entire nation and declare the same as special non-working holiday, much similar to the national commemoration of Andres Bonifacio's birth every November 30th of the year.

It should be acknowledged that both the birth and the death of the country's national hero Dr. Jose Rizal are worthy of national commemorations, a fitting recognition of his heroism that helped fuel the desire for independence among his countrymen, his works and teachings on patriotism and nationalism and the continuing influence of his works to Filipino generations. As the "greatest product of the Philippines," in the words of his best friend Prof. Ferdinand Blumentritt, "Rizal, an animal and plant lover also excelled in many fields of environmental works, including as an agriculturist, botanist, conchologist, horticulturist,

ichthyologist, sanitary engineer and zoologist.” Indeed, our national hero, Jose Rizal had been tirelessly devoted to improving community health and environment even long before the Constitution formally committed to promoting and protecting the health and environmental rights of the people.

Furthermore, being an environmentalist and naturalist, the teachings, ideals and practice shown by Dr. Jose P. Rizal among his countrymen during his lifetime are indeed worthy to be cherished, nourished and pass on to the recent generation amidst our battle to cope up with Climate Change and Global Warming.

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



JOSE CH. ALVAREZ
Representative
2nd District of Palawan



GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Representative
2nd District of Pampanga

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8821

Introduced by Representatives Jose Ch. Alvarez and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

**AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF
OUR NATIONAL HERO DR. JOSE P. RIZAL TO BE KNOWN AS “ARAW
NG KAPANGANAKAN NI DR. JOSE P. RIZAL,” AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11144**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11144 otherwise known as “AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL HERO, DR. JOSE P. RIZAL, TO BE KNOWN AS “ARAW NG KAPANGANAKAN NI DR. JOSE P. RIZAL,” is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 1. June 19 of every is hereby declared as special nonworking holiday in the whole country in honor of the birth anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, to be known as “Araw ng Kapanganakan ni Dr. Jose P. Rizal.”

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

Approved,