

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9405



Introduced by Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There must be a law institutionalizing the celebration as a regular national public non-working holiday of the EDSA People Power Revolution which started on 22 February 1986 and culminated on 25 February 1986 with the popular and peaceful ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos Sr as dictator of his martial law regime.

The law will (a) perpetuate the commemoration of the Filipinos' triumph against the despotism and profligacy during the darkest era in Philippine history; (b) memorialize the heroism and sufferings of the victims and survivors of the martial law period; (c) promote historical truth and help guarantee non-repetition of massive violations of human rights; and (d) forego the varying degrees of celebrations decreed by Philippine sitting presidents to the extent of ambivalence and negation.

It has often been said that Filipinos have a short memory. This is unsurprising since we as a country have failed to institutionalize memorialization compared with other States. Rwanda, for example, commemorates the 1994 genocide 100 days a year. Argentina held a five-year trial that utilized arenas where the past was re-enacted, serving as basis for legal judgment. In East Timor, the final report of the Timor-Leste Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation documenting human rights violations from 1975-1999 was published in a five-volume compilation.

The Spanish authorities in 2019 exhumed the remains of the dictator Francisco Franco from a colossal mausoleum in the Valley of the Fallen in Madrid and reburied in a non-descript family graveyard, next to his wife.

Memorialization constitutes the intertwined processes of preserving the collective memories of a people. It includes, among others, ceremonies, landmarks or memorial sites, museums, artworks, laws, petitions, public addresses or speeches commemorating significant events in the struggle for freedom and democracy. It seeks to honor or pay tribute to those who were persecuted, tortured, disappeared, incarcerated or killed. Memorialization brings the current generation back to the past so as to learn from its lessons and challenges and better understand the prevailing problematic national situation.

Verily, the imperative of memorialization cannot be overemphasized. In fact, an October 2020 report of the current United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence focused on memorialization processes as a fifth pillar of transitional justice.

The enactment of this law is earnestly urged.

A stylized signature of Edcel C. Lagman in black ink.

EDCEL C. LAGMAN

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9475

Introduced by: Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

AN ACT

DECLARING FEBRUARY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS A REGULAR NATIONAL PUBLIC NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CULMINATION OF THE PEACEFUL EDSA PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. ***Culmination Day of the Peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution.*** – February 25 of every year is hereby declared a regular national public non-working holiday to commemorate, institutionalize and memorialize the popular ouster of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr. as the dictator of his martial law regime as the culmination of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution.

SEC. 2. ***EDSA Commission.*** The EDSA Commission created pursuant to Executive Order No. 82 (s. 1999) is hereby reconstituted to plan and implement appropriate nationwide ceremonies for the observance of February 25 as the culmination day of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution.

As reconstituted, the EDSA Commission shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Executive Secretary as Chairperson;
- b. As Members, the:
 - Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
 - Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment;
 - Chairperson of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP);
 - Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights;
 - Chairperson of the Human Rights Violations Victims' Memorial Commission;
 - Chairperson of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND),
 - Chairperson of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP);
 - Chairperson of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA);
 - One (1) representative from the private sector; and
 - One (1) representative from the academe.

The representatives of the private sector and the academe shall be appointed by a majority of the Commission. They shall be known advocates of the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of human rights and of the continuing celebration of the peaceful EDSA People Power Revolution.

The office of the Chairperson of the NHCP shall act as the secretariat of the EDSA Commission.

SEC. 3. ***Appropriations.*** The amount of at least Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) annually shall be appropriated in the General Appropriations



Act (GAA) and allocated to the EDSA Commission for its operations, together with private donations. Funds accruing to and expenses made by the EDSA Commission shall be subject to the usual accounting rules and procedures and audit by the Commission on Audit.

Pending inclusion in the GAA of the appropriate funds for the EDSA Commission, its operation shall be funded from the savings of the Office of the President and/or from the contingent fund under the control of the President.

SEC. 4. ***Repealing Clause.*** All laws, presidential decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations and any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. ***Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

