HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 10131

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is reported to rank 16th among 146 countries in the 2023 World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index Report and continues to lead as the most gender-equal country in Asia with a 79.1 percent gender parity.[1]

This scenario is not without mirror in the Philippine Judiciary. Data show that there are 1,153 female judges and justices from the trial courts to the Supreme Court compared to their 984 male counterparts. [2] It is in the trial courts where women judges outnumber their male counterparts. Moreover, it has also produced sixteen (16) Supreme Court lady Justices who have proven the mettle of female magistrates in the dispensation of justice.

Thus, it is but fitting that if International Women Judges are accorded the honor and privilege of celebrating March 10 annually as International Day of Women Judges, then, with more reason and pride that our Legislature should also set aside and declare this particular date, March 10, as National Day of Philippine Women Judges, in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the attainment of substantive equality of women and men , the promotion of gender-neutral justice, and the overall pursuit of non-discrimination against women.

The umbrella organization of the women judges is the Philippine Women Judges Association (PWJA) which was founded on September 5, 1987 by then Supreme Court Justice and Philippine Judicial Academy Chancellor Emeritus Ameurfina A. Melencio-Herrera. It has spearheaded the continuing professionalization of its members through the conduct of regular conferences, periodic training seminars and implementation of socially- oriented programs and activities.

This bill seeks to herald and recognize the vital role of the Philippine women judges in the propagation and attainment of justice for all, regardless of sex, race or creed, by setting aside one day during the month of March of each year in their honor.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is fervently requested.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

[1] reliefweb,int/report/Philippines/unlocking-gender-equality-Philippines, retrieved on Mar. 10, 2024.
[2] "*More female than male members in judiciary*," by Rey C. Panaligan, **Manila Bulletin**, Mar. 10, 2022.

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House Bill No. 10131

AN ACT
DECLARING MARCH 10 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY FOR THE WOMEN JUDGES IN THE JUDICIARY TO BE KNOWN AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PHILIPPINE WOMEN JUDGES"

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This act shall be known as the "National Day of Philippine Women Judges".

Section 2. Special Non-working Holiday. – To give due recognition to the crucial role and contribution of Filipino women in the maintenance and advancement of Philippine judicial system, and in line with the celebration of the International Day of Women Judges around the world as adopted under the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. A/RES/75/274, the tenth (10th) of March of every year is hereby declared as the National Day of Philippine Women Judges and a special non-working holiday for the women Judges in the Judiciary.

Section 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,