



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 641

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

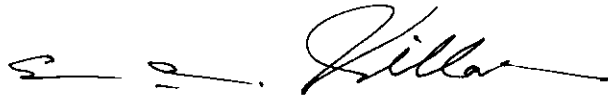
This bill, which has already been approved on Third Reading in the 19th Congress, seeks to declare August 9 of every year as Philippines-Israel Friendship Day.

The measure commemorates the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the State of Israel, which finds historical roots in the compassionate act of then-President Manuel L. Quezon, who signed Proclamation No. 173, calling on Filipinos to welcome Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust.

This declaration not only honors a significant chapter in both nations' shared history, but also reaffirms the Philippines' commitment to humanitarian values, international solidarity, and cultural understanding. It institutionalizes an annual observance that will be marked by educational and cultural activities spearheaded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and other relevant government institutions.

The passage of this measure underscores the enduring friendship between the Filipino and Jewish peoples, and further strengthens bilateral relations built on mutual respect, cooperation, and historical goodwill.

In view of the foregoing, the enactment of this bill is respectfully supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo C. Villanueva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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**AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 9 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE
PHILIPPINES-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP DAY**

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the*
2 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
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4

5 **SECTION 1.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- 6 (a) Strengthen the relationship between the Philippines and
7 countries with which it has shared history, values, and
8 traditions; and
9 (b) Commemorate notable acts of bravery and compassion of the
10 Filipino people.
11

12 **SEC. 2.** The ninth of August of each year is hereby declared as the
13 Philippines-Israel Friendship Day to commemorate the establishment of
14 diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Israel, birthed from the
15 signing of Proclamation No.173 by President Manuel L. Quezon which
16 called on all Filipinos to welcome and help Jewish refugees who were
17 escaping the horrors of the Holocaust.
18

19 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Foreign Affairs is hereby mandated to
20 spearhead in collaboration with the National Historical Commission of the
21 Philippines, and all other government agencies and institutions the
22 conduct of activities in celebration of the Philippine-Israel Friendship Day

1 and the implementation of projects and events promoting friendship and
2 cultural understanding between the Philippines and Israel.

3
4 **SEC. 4.** All laws, orders and issuances, rules and regulations and/or
5 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7
8 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10
11 Approved,