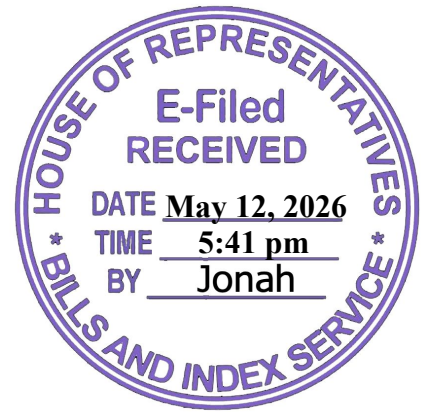


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9225**



Introduced by Honorable LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In II Chronicles 7:14, it is written:

“If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (New King James Version)

Throughout the history of the Philippines, the Filipino people have relied on faith, prayer, and spiritual solidarity as sources of strength and hope, especially during times of difficulty and uncertainty. The 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution was a response of the millions of Filipinos, heeding the appeal of then Manila archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, “to pray because it is only through prayer that we may solve this problem” (Dela Peña, 2026). Fourteen months after the devastation of super typhoon Yolanda, Pope Francis visited Tacloban, Leyte. Though the Pope admitted he is at a lost for words, the pontiff enjoined those who gathered to pray in silence (Fernandez and Chiu, 2015). During the COVID-19 Pandemic, President Rodrigo Duterte, in an Interfaith Prayer Meeting, sought divine guidance, urging the Filipino to fervently pray for the Lord to heal the land (Parrocha, 2021).

Today, the Filipino people continue to confront serious national challenges, including poverty, corruption, criminality, illegal drugs, social division, mental health struggles, economic instability, destructive effects of natural disasters, and moral decline. These challenges not only weaken institutions and strain communities, but erode moral and family values, the foundation of the nation.

The proposed measure builds upon prior executive issuances recognizing September 12 a day of prayer and reflection, including Proclamation Nos. 910 (s. 2005), 1095 (s. 2006), 1362 (s. 2007), 1555 (s. 2008), and 1869 (s. 2009) issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and Proclamation Nos. 25 (s. 2010) and 249 (s. 2011) issued by President Benigno S. Aquino III, all designating September 12 as National Day of Prayer. These issuances are reflection of a long-standing State policy of promoting voluntary, non-sectarian expression of faith as part of promoting peace, moral reflection, and fostering national solidarity.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the observance of September 12 of every year as a “National Day of Prayer” to provide an inclusive, voluntary, and non-sectarian opportunity for Filipinos of all faiths, religious traditions, and beliefs to gather in prayer, reflection, and acts of goodwill for the nation and its people. The measure aims to promote peace, compassion, mutual respect, interfaith dialogue, cross-cultural understanding, civic responsibility, stronger Filipino families, and

national harmony in a manner consistent with the constitutional principles of religious freedom and the separation of Church and State.

This measure neither establishes a state religion nor compels participation in any religious activity. Rather, it recognizes the enduring role of prayer, reflection, and solidarity continue to play in fostering hope, moral renewal, family unity, social responsibility, and genuine national progress for the Filipino people.

As the letter of Paul to Romans 10:13 reminds us:

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”
(*New King James Version*)

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



IANI MERCADO-REVILLA

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Fernandez, A. and Chiu, P. D. (2015, January 17). Pope Francis consoles Yolanda victims: Jesus is there for you. *GMA News Online*. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/407610/pope-francis-consoles-yolanda-victims-jesus-is-there-for-you/story/>

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9225

Introduced by Honorable LANI MERCADO-REVILLA

AN ACT
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS A NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “National Day of Prayer Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of moral reflection, interfaith dialogue, solidarity in nation-building and the promotion of public welfare. Consistent with the constitutional principles of religious freedom and the separation of Church and State, the State shall uphold inclusive and voluntary activities that foster peace, compassion, mutual respect, cross-cultural understanding, and moral harmony, towards the strengthening of the Filipino family and the advancement of genuine national progress.

SEC. 3. National Day of Prayer. – September 12 of every year is hereby declared a “National Day of Prayer” throughout the Philippines.

On this day, Filipinos of all faiths, religious traditions, and beliefs are encouraged to gather voluntarily in prayer, reflection, and acts of goodwill for the nation, its people, and the promotion of peace, unity, healing, and moral responsibility.

SEC. 4. Observance. – The observance of the National Day of Prayer shall be voluntary, non-sectarian, and inclusive of persons of all faiths and beliefs. Government agencies including government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, educational institutions, religious organizations, civil society organizations, and private institutions may organize appropriate and inclusive activities in observance of the National Day of Prayer.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,