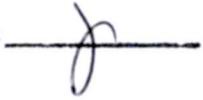


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

'16 DEC -7 P12 :02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 1270

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY AS "NATIONAL BIBLE DAY" AND PRONOUNCE THE SAME A REGULAR HOLIDAY AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine population is comprised of overwhelmingly 93% Christians, making it as the Asia-Pacific's largest Christian population and the fifth largest Christian population in the world.

The core of Christian belief is grounded on the Holy Bible. Sermons and homilies of Christian churches dwell in the teachings of the Bible. It is the primary source of spiritual manna. It forms and transforms lives of people from generations to generations. It serves as the foundation of spiritual, moral, and social fiber, which molds a socially responsible citizenry and strong nation building.

The significance of the Holy Bible was recognized by former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, and Fidel Ramos in Presidential Proclamation Numbers 2242, 44, and 1067, respectively. The proclamations are in harmony in declaring the last week of January of every year as "National Bible Week."

This bill seeks to boldly emphasize the holiness of The Living Truth by allotting a holiday for its celebration on every last Monday of January, which shall be known as "National Bible Day." This calls for all Christians to altogether unite and celebrate the Holy Bible as the cradle of the Christian faith.

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

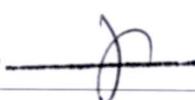


EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO
Senator

SENATE

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY AS "NATIONAL BIBLE DAY"
AND PRONOUNCE THE SAME A REGULAR HOLIDAY AND EVERY YEAR
THEREAFTER

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

- 1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*National Bible Day Act.*”
- 2 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State that the government shall aid and
3 encourage development of the moral character and spiritual foundation of the Filipino people.
- 4 **Section 3.** As a predominantly Christian nation and the largest Christian nation in the Asia-
5 Pacific, this Act recognizes the value of the Holy Bible as the core of Christian faith. The last
6 Monday of January and every year thereafter is hereby declared as a “National Bible Day Act”
7 and proclaim the same as a national holiday.
- 8 **Section 4.** Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as “The
9 Administrative Code of 1987,” as amended is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 “SEC. 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days. –

11 (1) Unless otherwise modified by law, order, or proclamation, the following regular
12 holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

13 A. Regular Holidays

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| New Year's Day | January 1 |
| NATIONAL BIBLE DAY | MOVABLE DATE |
| Maundy Thursday | Movable Date |
| Good Friday | Movable Date |
| Araw ng Kagitingan | Monday Nearest April 9 |
| Labor Day | Monday nearest May 1 |
| Eidul Fitr | Movable Date |
| Eidul Adha | Movable Date |
| Independence Day | Monday nearest June 12 |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| National Heroes Day | Last Monday of August |
| Bonifacio Day | Monday nearest November 30 |
| Christmas Day | December 25 |
| Rizal Day | Monday nearest December 30 |

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B. Nationwide Special Holidays

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Ninoy Aquino Day | Monday nearest August 21 |
| All Saints Day | November 1 |
| Last Day of the Year | December 31 |

C. The terms “legal or regular holiday” and “special holiday,” as used in laws, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances shall be referred to as “regular holiday” and “special day,” respectively.

Section 5. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations and any part thereof regarding national nonworking holidays which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,