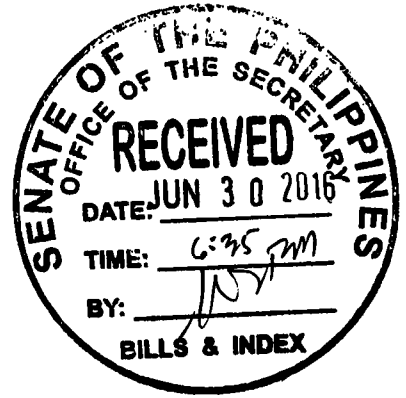


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

S. B. No. 209

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL "TESDAMAN" VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT DECLARING THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST
OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL TECH-VOC DAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For the past six years, over 10,000,000 Filipinos graduated in various tech-voc courses, majority of them found employment locally and abroad.

Since the creation of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on August 25, 1994, technical vocational education and training (tech-voc) in the Philippines has undergone major transformation. Today, it is recognized as an important pillar in the country's overall human resources development strategy because it is rapid, flexible, jobs-oriented, competency-based and can easily lead people to jobs.

In fact, tech-voc graduates are the face of highly competent, globally competitive and world-class Filipino workers. Hence, tech-voc can be the first option, not just the fallback choice, because graduates are trained with the relevant skills that businesses need right now.

Not a long time ago, the "*tech-voc lang*" mentality caused a second-rate status to tech-voc graduates. But with the government's massive information campaign, expansion of scholarship programs, private sector engagement, and quality-assured systems, Filipinos have changed their outlook about tech-voc. Almost 2,000,000 Filipinos enrol in various tech-voc courses every year which opened up a lot of opportunities for them in terms of employment and livelihood.

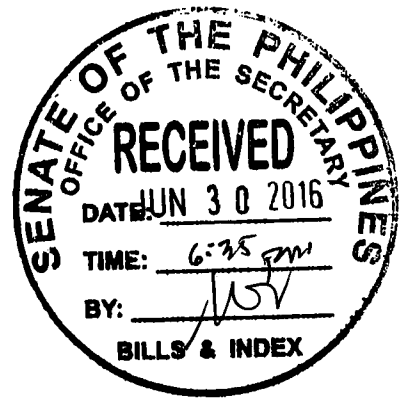
Because there is a strong correlation between the proportion of tech-voc graduates and per capita income, the Philippine government should take further steps to further promote technical and vocational education and training. To a country like the Philippines, tech-voc is undeniably a tool for productivity enhancement and poverty reduction.

Indeed, there should be an observance of a "National tech-Voc Day" in the Philippines to give importance on the role of middle-level manpower and uplift the dignity of our plumbers, carpenters, welders, household workers, drivers, seamen, cooks, dressmakers, graphic designers, call center agents, among others.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL "TESDAMAN" VILLANUEVA

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

1 **SECTION 1. National Tech-Voc Day.** – The twenty-fifth day of August of every
2 year is hereby declared as the "National Tech-Voc Day".

3 To ensure a meaningful observance of this special working holiday as herein
4 declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including
5 government-owned and-controlled corporations, local government units, public
6 and private schools at the basic, technical-vocational, and tertiary education
7 institutions, employers in the private sector, industry associations, shall
8 encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their employees to
9 engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of their
10 offices or establishments in celebration of the "National Tech-Voc Day".

11 **SEC. 2. Lead Agency.** – Pursuant to the observance of the "National Tech-Voc
12 Day", the annual program of activities and advocacy campaign shall be prepared
13 and implemented with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
14 (TESDA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) as the lead agencies.

15 **SEC. 3. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
17 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.