

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

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SENATE

P. S. R. No. 256

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Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND PARLIAMENTS AROUND THE WORLD IN COMMEMORATING THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2013 WITH THE THEME, "STRENGTHENING VOICES FOR DEMOCRACY"**

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, the United Nations declared September 15 of each year as the International Day of Democracy, and invited all member states to commemorate the day with activities that celebrate and exalt democracy in their respective countries;

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which the Philippines is a member of, unifies parliaments worldwide in celebrating the International Day of Democracy and has adopted for this year's commemoration, the theme, "*Strengthening Voices for Democracy*", which highlights the ability of Parliament to echo the voices of its people by enacting appropriate legislation that effectively address the ever-changing needs of citizens;

**WHEREAS**, despite recent democratic developments in some of the most oppressive parts of the world, the Global Democracy Index indicates that world democracy is in a standstill, with only 15 percent of the countries in the world enjoying a full democracy while about a third remain under authoritarian regimes;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines, the first democratic nation in Asia, continues to be an inspiration worldwide for its constant effort to pursue the ideals of democracy;

**WHEREAS**, as President Benigno Simeon Aquino III remains steadfast in pursuing reforms that aim to empower the Filipino people, as well as in restoring faith in government and its institutions, Filipinos recently expressed a record-high satisfaction with the way democracy works in the country;

**WHEREAS**, sustaining this momentum entails a conscious and continuous effort on all branches of government to remain true to its mandate by being transparent, responsive and accessible to all citizens without prejudice to gender, ethnicity or faith;


**WHEREAS**, with traditional and new media, which includes social media providing parliaments with an almost comprehensive and real time avenue for obtaining and responding to public sentiment, Members of the Senate have become active in using these channels to promote greater transparency and facilitate genuine democratic dialogue;

**WHEREAS**, given the rapid spread of on-line information together with the rise of a dynamic *netizen* culture that has figured prominently in recent political developments, Philippine Congress should fully utilize this communication platform to strengthen the people's ability to influence the policy-making process and encourage increased political participation, particularly among the youth;

**WHEREAS**, the International Day of Democracy is an auspicious opportunity for the Philippine Senate, to lead the nation, in solidarity with other world parliaments, to reaffirm its commitment to the promotion of a genuine democracy by remaining faithful in serving the interests of the Filipino people;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, to express its sense in joining the community of nations and parliaments around the world in commemorating the Sixth International Day of Democracy on September 15, 2013.

*Adopted,*

  
PIA S. CAYETANO  
Senator