

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



23 JAN 25 P3:55

SENATE

S. No. 1769

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

AN ACT
TO DESIGNATE THE SIXTH (6TH) DAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS TANDANG SORA DAY,
MANDATING CONCERNED AGENCIES TO CONDUCT EVENTS DURING ITS
OBSERVANCE, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the book *Revolt of the Masses*, National Scientist for History Teodoro Agoncillo narrated the events leading to the Cry of Pugadlawin and the first skirmishes of the revolution. He wrote that when the Philippine Revolution of 1896 broke out, Melchora Aquino was already 84 years old. Days before the commencement of the revolution, Bonifacio and over a thousand of his men came to the home of Juan A. Ramos, Aquino's eldest son and member of the Katipunan, the group whose members gave Melchora Aquino the moniker "Tandang Sora".

She opened her home to the revolutionaries and made it a safe space to organize a number of confidential gatherings. She looked after them and provided them food and the much-needed medical aid, and treatment for the ill and injured Katipuneros.

When the Katipunan was discovered by the Spanish colonial government, the elderly woman was their first target. The Spaniards were aware of her status as a top figure who was familiar with all the Katipunan's plans and strategies. She was arrested

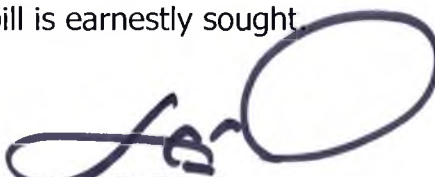
without consideration for her age or frailty. She was aggressively questioned and threatened with jail and execution, but she remained silent regarding the Katipunan. They deported her to Guam as punishment. Despite losing everything she had to the revolution, she remained faithful to the cause.

Dapat lamang na kilalanin natin si Melchora Aquino at ang kanyang ambag sa rebolusyon at sa pambansang kasarinlan at pagkakaisa. Upang ipakita ang ating pagpapahalaga sa kanyang alaala, ating itinatalaga ang kanyang araw ng kapanganakan upang kilalanin at itaguyod ang diwa ng kanyang mahaba at makabuluhang buhay.

This bill seeks to recognize the invaluable contribution and sacrifices of Melchora Aquino during the revolution. It is a response to the call of the people of Quezon City to institutionalize and further strengthen the provisions of Presidential Proclamations (PP No. 1 s.1966, PP No. 508 s.1969 and PP No. 793 s. 1971) which declared the 6th of January as Melchora Aquino Day a venue to honor, commemorate and celebrate her life through appropriate ceremonies.

While there are various efforts to commemorate the life of Melchora Aquino, a dedicated day of nationally organized activities will integrate all these efforts and improve cooperation and coordination among sectors in our society.

As a nation that recognizes the crucial role of its people in achieving the independence of our nation, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought



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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Tandang Sora Day Act".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to undertake initiatives that will give due honor and recognition to our national heroes and the crucial roles they played in shaping our nation's history. To promote the values of nationalism, collective action, civic consciousness and patriotism among its people that will shape the character needed for national development and independence.

SECTION 3. *Tandang Sora Day.* — In recognition of the life and heroism of Melchora Aquino, the sixth (6th) day of January of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday to be known as Tandang Sora Day.

SECTION 4. *Inter-agency and Multi-sectoral Effort.* — The National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Department of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education shall serve as the lead agencies in the preparation and

1 implementation of the annual program of activities for the observance of the Tandang
2 Sora Day.

3 To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of this day, the heads of
4 national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations
5 involved in education, local government units, and employers in the private sector
6 involved in education, are encouraged to allow their respective personnel to participate
7 in any related activity to be held within the premises of their respective offices or
8 establishments.

9 SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to implement the
10 provision of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

11 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* — In the event that any part, section or
12 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court,
13 the remaining provisions thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect as if
14 the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

15 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances,
16 rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act
17 are hereby repealed or modified and/or superseded as case may be by this Act
18 accordingly.

19 SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
21 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

22 *Approved,*