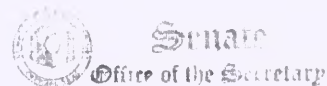


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



23 MAY -4 P 6 :35

SENATE
S. No. 2136

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The agriculture sector is the backbone of our society. During the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, our farmers zealously aided in alleviating the country's food supply concerns and remained committed to ensuring food security despite the hardships brought about by the public health crisis. Even before the pandemic, farmers have perennially toiled long hours to bring food to our tables notwithstanding the dreary situations they have had to endure.

Despite their unwavering commitment to sustaining our agricultural country, our Filipino farmers remain among the most disadvantaged groups in society. Farmers repeatedly lament the lack of sufficient government support and have persistently found themselves plunged into high levels of poverty. Farmers battle with increasing prices of agricultural inputs, the lack of controls on agriculture-related commodities, the effects of large-scale importation, typhoon consequences, and a multitude of other issues.

As a nation, we must constantly recognize that our farmers are indispensable to almost every sector of our society. Without our hardworking farmers, the country's food supply chain would be drastically weakened, if not totally disabled. Our farmers

undoubtedly play silent, but vital roles in the everyday lives of every single Filipino. They must be provided with protection and security.

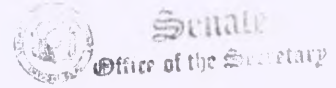
This bill aims to acknowledge the valuable contributions, resiliency, and hard work of all our farmers then and now by honoring them every twenty-second of January. As our country's true modern-day heroes, we owe our farmers nothing less than our full support, appreciation, and dedication to advancing their rights and welfare.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

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



23 MAY -4 P6 :35

SENATE
S. No. 2136

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

**AN ACT
DECLARING JANUARY TWENTY-TWO OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL FARMER'S DAY**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title* - The twenty-second day of January of every year is hereby
2 declared as a special working holiday to be known as "National Farmer's Day".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as
4 herein declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, including
5 government-owned and controlled corporations especially those that are dealing
6 directly with the farmers as well as local government units, and employers in the
7 private sector shall encourage and afford sufficient time and opportunities for their
8 employees to engage and participate in any activity conducted within the premises of
9 their respective offices or establishments in support and sympathy to farmers across
10 the country to celebrate "National Farmer's Day".

11 Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication
12 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,