

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
P. S. R. No. 500

RECEIVED BY: XASUN

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE
TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND PARLIAMENTS
AROUND THE WORLD IN COMMEMORATING
THE 20th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY**

WHEREAS, this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Democracy adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on September 16, 1997 which affirmed the universality of democratic principles, elements and values;

WHEREAS, the IPU Declaration attests that democracy is a universal aspiration, anchored on a set of common values which include the primacy of the rule of law, the promotion and protection of human rights, free political competition, public accountability, and a genuine partnership between men and women in solving the affairs of society that directly affect them;

WHEREAS, democracy means an empowered people responsibly enjoying their basic freedoms, vigilantly protecting their and other people's rights, and resolving society's conflicts through debate, persuasion and compromise;

WHEREAS, as a result, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2007 declaring September 15 of each year as the International Day of Democracy, and encouraging all governments, parliaments and organizations to commemorate the event annually by raising public awareness on the importance of democracy;

WHEREAS, the state of democracy world-wide has been challenged lately by so-called populist but anti-democratic movements which have weakened institutions and the people's regard for the rule of law;

WHEREAS, there is growing disenchantment in traditional systems of government where many citizens, especially the youth, feel deprived of participation in governance, denying them political and economic opportunities, and thus, are yearning for change;

WHEREAS, the mandate of the people's leaders is best expressed in free, fair, honest and peaceful elections where the people's voices are heard, their choice respected and their hopes for societal and generational renewal and change are ensured;

WHEREAS, the legislature, composed of men and women duly elected as representatives of the people, is the key defender of democratic ideals and is responsible for ensuring that the benefits of democracy are fully enjoyed by the people through laws enacted that protect their basic freedoms and promote their well-being;

WHEREAS, the legislature can further enhance democracy by strengthening the rule of law, finding solutions to the root causes of pervasive poverty and inequality, ensuring peace and order, and eliminating corruption in government;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the legislature to promote more decentralized local governments that embody the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities, fostering a more inclusive and participatory management of public affairs;

WHEREAS, mandated by the people to uphold the nation's democratic ideals, the Philippine Senate has always been considered as a "bastion of democracy" and has traditionally sustained its independence as a co-equal branch of government;

WHEREAS, in order to create a more inclusive democracy, the Senate continues to fully engage the public and be more responsive to the needs of the people through its open public hearings, media coverage of its legislative investigations, and untrammelled debates in plenary;

WHEREAS, this year's theme of "In Defense of Democracy" also reminds members of the Senate to remember its history and its heroes who fought tyranny in all forms; as well as to continue to remain true to their duties and maintain the highest level of integrity and accountability as elected public officials, qualities that enabled the Chamber to obtain the high trust of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, as a leading member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union commemorating the International Day of Democracy, the Philippine Senate reaffirms its steadfast commitment to engage the Filipino people, especially the youth, to undertake meaningful activities that will not only celebrate but also strengthen the democratic process in the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, as it hereby resolves, to express its sense to join the community of nations and parliaments around the world in commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III