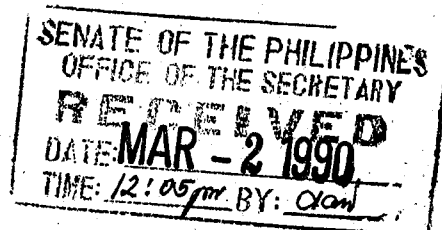


163  
Congress of the Philippines)  
Third Regular Session )

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S E N A T E



COMMITTEE REPORT No. 987

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, and Women and Family Relations on MAR - 2 1990.

Re : S.B. No. 1430 introduced by Senator Rasul

Recommending its approval with amendments with Senators Rasul, Salonga, Laurel, Guingona, Pimentel, Paterno, Lina, Shahani, Tanada, Saguisag, Enrile, Maceda, Alvarez, Angara, Aquino, Gonzales, Herrera, Mercado, Romulo, Osmena and Ziga as sponsors thereof.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, and Women and Family Relations to which was referred S.B. No. 1430, introduced by Senator Rasul, entitled:

**"AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that S.B. No. 1430 be approved with the following amendments:

1. On line 2, after the word "holiday", insert the phrase "for women", to read as follows;

SECTION 1. THE EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR IS HEREBY DECLARED AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR WOMEN TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

2. On lines 3 and 4, insert a new section two to read as follows:

**"SEC. 2 TO ENSURE MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE OF THE "HOLIDAY" AS HEREIN DECLARED, ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, AS WELL AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND EMPLOYERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHALL ENCOURAGE, AND AFFORD SUFFICIENT TIME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR , THEIR EMPLOYEES TO ENGAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITY CONDUCTED IN CELEBRATION OF THE "NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"**

And renumber the succeeding section accordingly.

3. On lines 4 and 5 delete the phrase "upon its approval", and in lieu thereof insert phrase "TWO (2) DAYS FOLLOWING ITS PUBLICATION IN AT LEAST TWO (2) NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

4. Change the title to read as follows:

**AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY FOR WOMEN TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

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Respectfully submitted,

*Jose D. Lina, Jr.*  
JOSE D. LINA, JR.  
Chairman  
Committee on Constitutional  
Amendments, Revision of  
Codes and Laws

*René A. V. Saguisag*  
RENE A. V. SAGUISAG  
Vice-Chairman and  
Member of the Committee  
on Women and Family Relations

*Santanina T. Rasul*  
SANTANINA T. RASUL  
Chairperson  
Committee on Women and  
Family Relations

*Leticia R. Shahani*  
LETICIA R. SHAHANI  
Vice-Chairperson

MEMBERS:

*Neptali A. Gonzales*  
NEPTALI A. GONZALES

*Orlando S. Mercado*  
ORLANDO S. MERCADO

*Ernesto M. Maceda*  
ERNESTO M. MACEDA

*Aquilino Q. Pimentel*  
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL

*Wiberto E. Tanada*  
WIBERTO E. TANADA

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

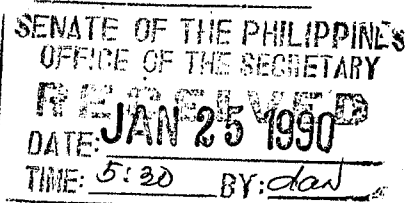
SOTERO H. LAUREL  
President Pro-Tempore

*Trofisto T. Guingona*  
TROFISTO T. GUINGONA  
Majority Floor Leader

JUAN PONCE ENRILE  
Minority Floor Leader

HON. JOVITO R. SALONGA  
Senate President

Congress of the Philippines )  
Third Regular Session )



S E N A T E  
S. No. 1490

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Introduced by Senator Santanina T. Rasul  
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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The declaration of the UN Decade for Women (1975-1985) dramatized the concerted efforts of women all over the world to compel recognition of their importance, beyond their traditionally accepted role as wives and mothers, as indispensable and equal partners with men in the quest for peace, progress, and development.

Thus, at an especially critical juncture in Philippine history when the Filipina is being made to assume an ever increasing share of the burden and risks of nation-building, often by necessity and not always by choice, they are wont to ask: when, and in what form and manner, is this call for participation by women in the development process as equal partners with men to be finally made into a working reality?

Accolades received by prominent and outstanding women over time have created the impression that the Filipina has indeed come a long way. But, as T.S. Eliot would say "between the idea and the reality, falls the shadow". A great shadow indeed rests between the formal equality between the sexes that our Constitution guarantees and the relationship between gender in the home, at the workplace, and other important areas of life. One need only look at the snail-paced enactment of laws for women to realize how much still remains to be done.

Regrettably, it has become apparent that in reality the historical significance of Filipinas are largely given only lip service. What is needed, along with continuing concerted action, is legislation that shall permanently enshrine the true worth and significance of Filipino women in Philippine society.

It is our contention that one of the best ways of dramatizing meaningfully to both men and women this singular importance of the Filipina as a rallying point during these troubled and confused times is the declaration of a public holiday for women on March 8, which is heralded world-wide as Women's Rights and International Peace Day.

A national recognition of women thru "National Women's Day" in one fell swoop honors all Filipinas irrespective of

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age, status, ethnicity and region, class, sector, occupation, religious affiliation and political color; here and abroad, for all times.

By the public acknowledgment of the collective contributions and the productive potential of our women, we would have underscored for all, society's acceptance of their intrinsic value whether operating in the formal or informal or underground economy as a salaried worker, an unpaid householder, a volunteer, a peasant or fisherwomen, a hawker, an entertainer or domestic helper. With this grand gesture, we are paying tribute to the many women by whose marginalization, oppression or exploitation, the country has gained in terms of honor and even questionable dishonor as when Filipinas in the export labor sector were hailed as the new "heroines" of the country, for the long hours spent abroad suffering indignities albeit contributing heftily to national foreign exchange coffers.

We would honor the faceless wives and mothers who toil and suffer in silence while their menfolk achieve, create and recreate. We would make known our high regard for the invisible women in history, and the still to be heralded fighting women of every major battlefield in the world.

We would acknowledge the numerous lowly paid teachers in whose experienced hands but exhausted minds and bodies we have entrusted the education of future generations of Filipino leaders and workers. We would single out the underemployed women in the bureaucracy and the private sector; the overworked, underpaid and sexually discriminated or harassed workers in the offices, factories, and fields.

We would call attention to the plight of the talented women in the arts, technology, the profession and enterprises where they remain second fiddle to men on the basis of sheer gender differences.

We would praise the doting mothers and grandmothers who cradle children and grandchildren without rest nor remuneration as well as the meagerly compensated maids without whose substandard pay and working conditions, many working women would neither realize their full potential.

We would even focus on our socially condemned "wayward" women -- the prostitutes, the bar girls, the mail order brides, the cultural dancers, the pedophile and rape victims-- they who are persistently drawn by ignorance, economic necessity, or social deprivation into these livelihood tracks. We would cite the drug addicts and the mentally deranged among our women who have drifted into their afflictions bereft of any real choice but the misery of their circumstances.

We would have our chance to honor even the single parents and the spinsters who suffer the loneliness brought on by social stigma.

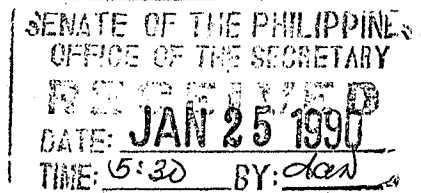
We would pay tribute to the contemplative and active religious who, like the embittered wives and widows of the military and the police, quietly use the force of prayer to counter the force of arms and battle the forces of evil to save the good in all of us.

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Admittedly there is no dearth of honors and awards that have been given and can still be given to the many exceptional and successful Filipinas in our society. But it is our belief that by so honoring all Filipinas for all time, our nation would have made manifest its sincerity and genuine understanding of that reality in which we profess to believe -- the fundamental equality of women and men before God and us all.

*Santanina Rasul*  
SANTANINA T. RASUL  
Senator

Congress of the Philippines )  
Third Regular Session )



S E N A T E  
S. B. No. 1430

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Introduced by Senator Santanina T. Rasul  
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AN ACT TO DECLARE MARCH EIGHT OF EVERY YEAR  
AS AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE  
NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

SECTION 1. The eight (8) day of March of every year is hereby declared as an official holiday to be known as the National Women's Day.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,

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