

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5828

Introduced by **REP. MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The world today is in peril because of unpeace as a result of violence, wars, animosities, discord, differences of religious beliefs, political affiliations, and economic circumstances. However, genuine and lasting peace is and indispensable and integral requisite to national development and nation-building. It is essential to promote the development of good relationships among peoples, communities, and nations as a means to achieve lasting peace and abhor all forms of armed conflicts and instead call of the cessation of wars in all its ugly forms. Indeed, every member of society deserves to live in peace and in harmony with other people.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy, adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom, cooperation and amity with all nations."

The same Constitution declares that "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy."

Unification efforts that will strengthen harmonious relationships of peoples and nations must draw support from all sectors of society and the state should enjoin all individuals, communities, organizations, government agencies, public and private primary and secondary educational institutions, state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LCUs), and private higher educational institutions (PHEIs), to commit to bring peace and harmony, national unity, world peace and global understanding.

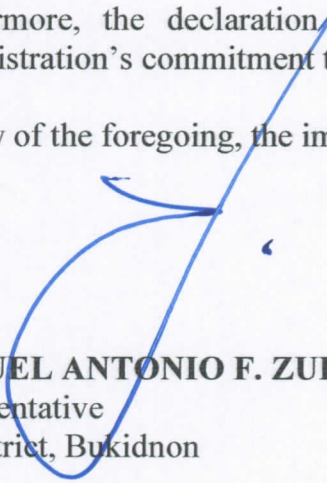
Peace organizations such as the Volunteer Individuals for Peace (VIP) whose membership comes mainly from the country's state universities and colleges, Heavenly World Peace Restoration of Light (HWPL), a Korean international peace organization in Mindanao and have also gathered tens of thousands of peace volunteers from state universities and colleges in peace assemblies and rallies in the different parts of the archipelago to declare that peace is integral and key to human development.

January 24 is the day when peace rallies and peace marches in Mindanao and Luzon were simultaneously organized by peace advocates, international peace partners by tens of thousands of university and college students, faculty, employees, and individuals who advocate for peace that resulted in establishing peace monuments and peace zones.

In order to give Filipinos the opportunity to commemorate and deepen their consciousness, obligation, and commitment to promote the culture of peace, cultural solidarity and understanding, January 24 is hereby declared a National Peace Day.

Furthermore, the declaration of a National Peace Day will actualize the Duterte Administration's commitment to lead the nation and its people towards lasting peace.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
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**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 24 AS NATIONAL PEACE DAY, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act is hereby named the "National Peace Day Act of 2019", further declaring January 24 as Special Working Holiday

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the state to uphold peace as it is declared by the Philippine Constitution that "The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy" shall be observed.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a.) **Peace.** Peace means not only the absence of violence, wars, and conflicts, but the presence of love, understanding, harmony, development, and respect for one's inalienable rights.
- (b.) **Peace Activities.** This shall mean any peace for a, symposia, seminars, workshops, lectures, including peace marches and peace rallies that will be simultaneously conducted during the National Peace Day
- (c.) **Peace Programs.** This shall mean series of peace activities and projects included in any institution-wide long-term peace plan.

- (d.) **Peace Centers.** This shall mean permanent facilities devoted solely for peace activities and programs and function as the coordinating office for the National Peace Day Celebration.
- (e.) **Educational Institutions.** This shall mean any of the Philippine private and public higher education institutions, private and public elementary and high schools engaged in permanently providing basic and tertiary education.
- (f.) **Peace Volunteers.** This shall mean any organization or individual that have been advocating and promoting peace.

SECTION 4. Scope. The content of peace activities and peace program during the National Peace Day shall be coordinated by the local peace center and shall cover the areas of violence prevention and mediation, guidance and counseling, unity and harmony, rehabilitation of prisoners, conflict resolution, inter-cultural dialogue and solidarity, and social justice.

SECTION 5. Peace Centers. Peace centers shall be coordinating offices for the National Day celebration and shall be established in all local government unit (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), private higher education institutions (PHEIs) and in all national government agencies.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within 90 days from the approval of this Act, the state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), and all the national government agencies, shall jointly issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

SECTION 7. Private Higher Education Institutions. The private higher education institutions (PHEIs) shall independently conduct its peace activities and implement peace programs, including the appropriation of its budget in observance of the National Peace Day.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. This Act shall direct all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs), including all government agencies to invest in peace-making by appropriating half percent (.005) of their annual budget in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) as yearly budget for the National Peace Day celebration.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act shall hereby be deemed repealed or modified.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.