

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH (17TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4009**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our environment has been the object of abuse, neglect and unconcern for many decades. It is only now that some attention and care is being extended to our environment and in most cases on a sporadic basis.

Considering the present state of our environment, to be effective and meaningful, efforts to rescue our environment from its present degradation should be massive and sustained. The mandate to care for our environment should not only be compulsory. It should also contain incentives.

In other more socially advanced and environment-conscious countries, one day of every year is declared Environment Day. On this day, every year, everybody is expected to participate in environment care activities, such as cleaning the streets, the surroundings, fences, sidewalks, beaches, rivers, riverbanks and all other areas which need cleaning.

In the Philippines, because of the sad state of our environment, we need many more days to be devoted to our environment. This bill proposes to make the last Saturday of every month Environment Day.

I earnestly invite my colleagues to support this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric L. Olivarez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled.

Section 1. - Title - This act shall be known as the "National Environment Day Act of 2016."

Section 2. - Declaration of Policy - It is the declared policy of the state to protect the environment and to preserve and maintain it in a clean and healthful condition and in order to attain this objective the state shall involve the active participation of the public sector as well as all segments of the private sector.

Section 3. - Declaration of Environment Day - The last Saturday of every month of the year is hereby declared as Environment Day.

Section 4. - Activities on Environment Day - Environment Day shall be specially devoted to the following activities: Cleaning of surroundings, streets, sidewalks, walkways, playgrounds, parks, rivers, river banks, beaches & public buildings; improvement of the appearance

of buildings, fences & walls; planting of trees, flowering plants; and any other environmental activity.

In general, an environmental activity is one which will enhance the condition or promote the aesthetic value of the environment or any activity which is related or will contribute to said objective.

Section 5. - Participants in the Environment Day Activities: All government offices and its attached agencies including government owned and controlled corporations, privately owned corporations, local government units (LGU's), public and private schools, non-government organizations (NGOs), civic clubs, religious and non-religious organizations, and the general public.

Section 6. - Incentives - The above-enumerated agencies and organizations shall devise appropriate plans and programs to give incentives and create sustained interest in the activities on Environment Day among its employees, constituents, students, and members;

Corporations shall be allowed tax exemptions/deductions for expenses incurred for activities under this act. Public and private schools are allowed to give academic credits to students for participation in activities under this act. Local government units shall appropriate reasonable amounts in their budget for the expenditures for activities under this act.

Section 7. - Advocacy - The Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Governments, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education shall widely disseminate the provisions of this Act and shall employ such programs as may be appropriate to develop interest and sustained support for the objectives of this Act.

Section 8. - Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. - Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 10. - Effectivity - This act shall take effect fifteen days after publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,