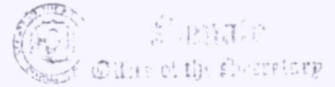


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
Third Regular Session]



SENATE

S. B. No. 2042

'18 OCT -1 P6:02

Introduced by SENATOR SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "MARCELO H. DEL PILAR NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare August 30 of every year as the "Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day".

The most famous journalist in our history and considered as the father of Philippine Journalism is Marcelo H. Del Pilar who uses the pen name Plaridel. He is a national hero worthy of emulation for his patriotism, bravery and intelligence as exemplified by his works as a lawyer, as a revolutionary and as a propagandist.

As a journalist in the Philippines, Del Pilar founded the Diariong Tagalog which he used to expose the atrocities and excesses committed by the Spanish friars against the Filipinos who were called Indios at that time. Awakened by the fiery articles of Del Pilar, the ordinary folks started entertaining the idea of disobeying the powerful friars. This reached the knowledge of the friars who then pressured the government to do something otherwise a revolution would be imminent. Del Pilar was able to escape arrest and fled to Spain to join the Filipino Propaganda Movement.

Soon, Del Pilar became one of the leaders of the Philippine Propaganda Movement. He also became the editor-in-chief of La Solidaridad, the newspaper of the Filipino propagandists who initially wanted the Philippines to become a province of Spain and the citizens to be treated equally as those in the mainland. Later on, the plan to revolt and gain freedom from Spain was born. The "Great Propagandist" and "Mastermind of

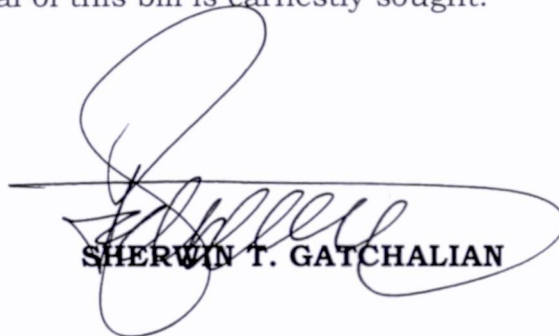
the Filipino Revolution” died in Barcelona, Spain but the seeds he planted eventually led to Philippine independence from Spanish rule.

Declaring August 30 of every year, which is the date of birth of Del Pilar, as the “Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day” will show to the rest of the world that our country recognizes and respects Freedom of the Press as enshrined in Section 4, Article III (Bill of Rights) our Constitution. This right not only includes the right to speak and write but also the right to be protected from threats, intimidation and violence.

If favorably passed into law, it will remind us of the patriotic deeds of Marcelo H. Del Pilar and inspire people to emulate his example of selfless service, exceptional courage and leadership that gave hope to our Motherland during a critical time in our country’s history. The “Marcelo H. Del Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day” will also heighten awareness about press freedom so that the people of the press will not be afraid to report matters of public interest no matter whom or what interest gets hurt in the process.

This proposal has been passed by the House of Representatives through the initiative of Rep. Joe Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado.

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



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN



SENATE

S.B. No. 2042

'18 OCT -1 P6:02

RECEIVED

Introduced by SENATOR SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS "MARCELO H. DEL PILAR NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE PRESS FREEDOM DAY"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** In recognition of the vital role of the press in nation-
2 building as well as to increase awareness of the public about press freedom
3 so that journalists will be encouraged not be afraid to report matters of pub-
4 lic interest, August 30 of every year is hereby declared as "Marcelo H. Del
5 Pilar National Responsible Press Freedom Day".
6

7 **SECTION 2.** To ensure meaningful observance of the holiday as here-
8 in declared, all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, includ-
9 ing government-owned and controlled corporations as well as local govern-
10 ment units, and employers in the private sector, shall encourage and afford
11 sufficient time and opportunity for their employees to engage and participate
12 in any activity conducted within the premises of their respective offices or
13 establishments to celebrate the "Philippine Press Freedom Day".
14

15 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Education, Commission on Higher
16 Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, in
17 coordination with the Presidential Communications Operations Office, other
18 government media organizations, with the cooperation and support of pri-
19 vate media organizations, shall lead public and private school communities,
20 at all levels, in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the importance
21 of the press responsibility, the freedom of the press and ways to protect the
22 press people from threats, intimidation and violence. The same activities
23 shall also be made available to other interested public and private organiza-
24 tions.

1 **SECTION 4.** If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is
2 held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the validity of the other sections or
3 provisions shall not be affected thereby.

4
5 **SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publi-
6 cation in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
7

Approved,