Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. ______

Submitted by the COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION  April 8, 2021

RE : House Bill No. 9182

Recommendng its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1553 & 1922

Sponsors : Representatives Joseph ‘Jojo’ Lara, Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Elizaldy S. Co and ‘Kuya’ Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on Public Information to which were referred:

House Bill No. 1553, authored by Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. and Hon. Elizaldy S. Co, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-THREE OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘PHILIPPINE PRESS FREEDOM DAY’

and House Bill No. 1922, authored by Hon. ‘Kuya’ Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY’

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. ______ , entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS “NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY”


Respectfully submitted:

HON. JOSEPH ‘JOJO’ L. LARA
Chairperson
Committee on Public Information

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS “NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY”

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

SECTION 1. August 30 of every year is hereby declared as “National Press Freedom Day” in honor of Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the father of Philippine Journalism, who was born on August 30, 1850 and wrote under the pen name “Plaridel.”

SEC 2. To ensure the meaningful observance and celebration of National Press Freedom Day, all government agencies and instrumentalities, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, as well as the private sector shall afford sufficient time and opportunity for their employees to engage and participate in any related activity to be conducted in the premises of their respective offices or establishments.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in consultation with the Office of the President, government, and private media organizations shall lead public and private schools at all levels in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the importance of the press, their rights and social responsibilities, and the elimination of all forms of violence against the press.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
FACT SHEET

HOUSE BILL NO. 9182
In substitution of HB No. 1553 & 1922

NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES GARBIN, SY- ALVARADO, LARA, BORDADO, SALO, SANGCOPAN, GUICO III, JIMENEZ JR, VILLA, ABANTE, PANCHO, (IP) DY, (F) CASTRO, BARBERS, ESCUDERO, ELAGO, & SAVELLANO

Committee Referral: Committee on Public Information

OBJECTIVES:

• To honor and recognize the service of Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the famous Filipino Journalist and the father of Philippine Journalism."

• To recognize the vital role of the press in nation building and increase awareness of press freedom as a tool towards orderly society and transparency in governance.

KEY PROVISIONS:

• Declares August 30 of every year, Marcelo H. Del Pilar’s birth date as “National Press Freedom Day.”

• Directs all government agencies and its instrumentalities to lead the public and private sectors in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the importance of the press and their rights and social responsibilities to ensure meaningful observance and celebration of the “National Press Freedom Day” every August 30 of each year.

• Directs the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in consultation with the Office of the President, government and private media organizations to lead public and private schools at all levels in organizing consciousness-raising activities on the importance of the press, their rights and social responsibilities, and the elimination of all forms of violence against the press.

RELATED LAW:

• Presidential Decree No. 44
• Philippine Labor Code, as Amended

As of February 2021