

**MALACAÑANG
MANILA**

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 974

**DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 9 TO MARCH 9, 1997
AS THE MUSLIM EID'L AL-FITR (HARIRAYA PUASA) FESTIVAL
MONTH**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression;

WHEREAS, it is a tradition among Muslims of the Philippines and all over the Islamic world to observe Ramadhan, the Muslim fasting season, a month characterized by contemplative prayers and fasting;

WHEREAS, under the Muslim lunar calendar (hijra), the Eid'l Al-Fitr (Hariraya Puasa), which commemorates the end of fasting, falls on the ninth day of February 1997;

WHEREAS, the Philippines adheres to and joins Muslims all over the world in the commemoration of the successful end of the fasting and in the most festive season in the Islamic calendar, that is, the Muslim Eid'l Al-Fitr or Hariraya Puasa;

WHEREAS, it is but appropriate that this Proclamation, consistent with PD 291, as amended by PD 322 and Proclamation Nos. 323, 544 and 734, be issued to celebrate the culminating festival among other traditional festivities observed in the Republic of the Philippines; in recognition of the struggle and desire of our Filipino Muslim brothers and sisters for the attainment of lasting peace, sustainable growth, progress, and development and as an indisputable tool towards the reintegration into mainstream Philippine society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the period from February 9 to March 9, 1997 as the "Eid'l Al-Fitr (Hariraya Puasa) Festival Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of February in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Seven.



By the President:



LUIS C. LIWANAG II

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary

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Received

MAR 11 1997 *fdm*

Date



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