

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 111, S. 1955

DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 20 to 26, 1955
AS NATIONAL STATISTICS WEEK

WHEREAS, in the interest of a more progressive and prosperous Philippines, it is desirable to encourage and promote the use of statistical data in the solution of social and economic problems;

WHEREAS, to attain this objective, it is necessary to fully inform the public of the benefits to be derived from a program of statistical promotion and development and to disseminate applications of statistics to the service of human welfare; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that this program of statistical development in government and research necessary for wise administration and planning be assured of the widest possible public support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAMON MAGSAYSAY, President of the Philippines, do hereby declare the period from February 20 to 26, 1955, as NATIONAL STATISTICS WEEK. I call upon all government offices and instrumentalities throughout the country as well as all private entities and individuals to participate in the proper observance of said period, to give fullest publicity to the statistical promotion activities organized in connection therewith, and otherwise to generously support the Philippine Statistical Association, Inc. in its task of fostering statistics and its applications, of promoting unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems, and of increasing the contribution of statistics to human welfare. I especially call on the schools, various chambers, professional organizations and societies, civic organizations and service clubs to devote one day of said period to a program of education for the promotion of knowledge of facts and figures as a healthy basis for knowing our social and economic status

and progress, and that democracy laid by well-informed citizens and administrators is a true democracy in action.

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 3rd day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and fifty five, and of the Independence of the Philippines, the ninth.

(Sgd.) RAMON MAGSAYSAY
President of the Philippines

By the President:

(Sgd.) FRED RUIZ CASTRO
Executive Secretary

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WHY WE CELEBRATE STATISTICS WEEK *

by

EXEQUIEL S. SEVILLA ¹

Many of you have doubtless heard the saying that "Anything can be proved by statistics," as well as the joke that "figures do not lie, but liars know how to figure." This is at least one reason why it is valuable for the layman to have some knowledge of statistics so that he may be in a position to understand statistical figures which often appear in the press, reports or speeches, to differentiate between reliable and misleading statistics as well as to know the limitations of certain given figures. As President Magsaysay declared in his Proclamation No. 111 setting aside the period from February 20 to the 26th as National Statistics Week, we need a "program of education for the promotion of knowledge of facts and figures as a healthy basis for knowing our social and economic status and progress" because "democracy laid by well-informed citizens and administrators is a true democracy in action."

In reporting data on social and economic trends, business conditions, opinion polls, censuses, results of experiments, etc., statistical methods and statistical terms are necessary. But the resulting statistics or figures should be understood for what they really mean in order to avoid incorrect or sweeping conclusions. For instance, a great deal of present day statistics is obtained by means of the so-called "sampling method" so as to minimize the cost of the survey as well as to hasten completion of the work. The method is based on the principle that if the samples studied are properly selected and enough of them are included, the characteristics of the samples should be representative of the larger universe or population. Hence,

* Address broadcast February 23 and 26, 1955, over Radio Station DZFM as a feature of the celebration of National Statistics Week.

¹ General Manager, National Life Insurance Company