

**[ PROCLAMATION NO. 124, January 05, 2017 ]**

**DECLARING THE MONTH OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS  
NATIONAL BIBLE MONTH CULMINATING IN THE LAST WEEK  
THEREOF AS NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK**

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the religious nature of the Filipino people and the elevating influence of religion in human society;

WHEREAS, while maintaining neutrality in its treatment of all religious communities, the government is not precluded from pursuing valid objectives secular in character even if it would have an incidental result affecting a particular religion or sect;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution calls on the government to support efforts to strengthen the ethical and spiritual values and to develop the moral character of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, history bears witness to the profound impact of the Bible on the life of nations, and to how it has moved and inspired many people, including statesmen and social reformers, to work for the betterment of their fellow human beings even at great cost to themselves;

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper, for the molding of the spiritual, moral and social fiber of our citizenry, that national attention be focused on the importance of reading and studying the Bible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the month of January of every year as National Bible Month, culminating in the last week of January as the National Bible Week.

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 5th day of January, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Seventeen.

By the President:

(SGD.) SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA  
Executive Secretary

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