

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

Introduced by Hon. Arthur “Dodo” Y. Pingoy, Jr., M.D.

Explanatory Note

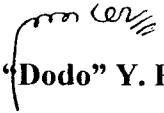
The province of South Cotabato was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 4849 which was enacted on July 18, 1966. The following year marked the first observance of its foundation anniversary and since then, every July 18 of the year became the traditional celebration of such momentous occasion.

It was observed, however, that through the years the participation in the different activities during the celebration was mostly limited to the provincial employees and some volunteer groups due to the fact that said date always falls on a regular work day. The only exception is if it falls on a Sunday.

In recognition of the historical significance of the founding of the province and the need to instill it in the heart and mind of every South Cotabateño, it is only fitting that July 18 be declared a special non-working holiday to enable the greater masses of its people to participate, reflect and celebrate the event with appropriate programs and ceremonies.

Moreover, said date also coincides with celebration of the T’nalak Festival which showcases primarily the notable achievements and sterling advancements of the South Cotabateños in the field of culture and arts and more importantly, helps in the promotion of peace and the growing trade, investments and tourism of the province.

The approval of this bill is, thus, earnestly sought.


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**AN ACT DECLARING JULY 18TH AS SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE
PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION
ANNIVERSARY AND THE CULMINATION OF THE T’NALAK FESTIVAL**

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

SECTION 1. July 18 from this year hereon is hereby declared a special nonworking
holiday in South Cotabato, in commemoration of its foundation anniversary and the culmination
of the T’nalak Festival.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,