

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 981

Introduced by Representative Abdullah D. Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Muslim annual pilgrimage or *Hajj* to Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an obligation once in a lifetime for all Muslims who are physically and financially able to perform it.

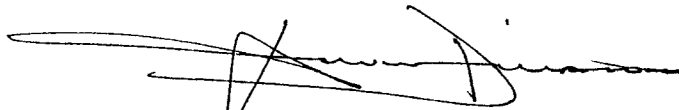
The end of *hajj* is marked by a festival known as *EIDUL ADHA*, which is celebrated with prayers by all Muslims from every corner of the globe and is one of the two annual festivals in the Islamic calendar (*Hijra*).

The five hundred years of colonial rule by Spaniards, Americans and Japanese of our country was followed by decades-old armed conflict between the government and Muslim armed groups and since then, the desired lasting peace remains elusive.

The government is embarking on a mission of continuing national reconciliation and unity among its diversified and multi-cultured people, among whom are the 15 million Filipino Muslim population.

The government's recognition of the rich Filipino Muslim cultural heritage through the observance of *EIDUL ADHA* as national holiday is certainly fitting and will definitely advance the pace of its peace efforts with the end view of attaining mutual understanding, unity and prosperity for our people.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO.

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AN ACT

DECLARING THE CULMINATION OF MUSLIM ANNUAL HAJJ A NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF EIDUL ADHA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26, CHAPTER 7 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. The culmination of the Muslim annual *hajj* is hereby declared a national holiday for the observance of *EIDUL ADHA*. This is the last day marking the end of Muslim *hajj* in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Section 2. Section 26, Chapter 7 of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Revised Administrative Code of 1987, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days.

(1) Unless otherwise modified by law, order or proclamation, the following regular holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

A. Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Maundy Thursday	Movable date
Good Friday	Movable date
<i>Eidul Fitr</i>	Movable date
<i>EIDUL ADHA</i>	MOVABLE DATE

Araw ng Kagitingan (Bataan and Corregidor Day)	April 9
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	June 12
National Heroes Day	Last Sunday of August
Bonifacio Day	November 30
Christmas Day	December 25
Rizal Day	December 30

B. Nationwide Special Days

All Saints Day	November 1
Last Day of the Year	December 31

x x x"

Section 3. The implementation of this Act shall be under the supervision of the Office of Muslim Affairs which shall promulgate rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of this Act, upon consultation with the Grand Mufti.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,