

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1635



Introduced by: HON. FEDERICO S. SANDOVAL II

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is a nation of diverse cultures. The cultural diversity results not only from the rich cultural heritage handed down by our forefathers, but also from the religious plurality practiced by the people. This diversity has advantages. However, certain cultural differences, fueled by religious passion, have divided parts of the country in bloody wars.

The Mindanao experience has taught us that such conflicts stem from want of understanding of the sentiments, beliefs and practices of one religious-cultural group by another, and vice versa. Making the whole nation aware of such sentiments, beliefs and practices is an important step in promoting an atmosphere of understanding among people of various cultural and religious backgrounds.

Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has set an example by issuing a Proclamation declaring the last day of Ramadan, an important day observed by our Muslim brothers, a non-working holiday.

On the other hand, the Iglesia ni Kristo considers July 27, 1914, the church's foundation day, a sacred day which all faithful nationwide observe yearly.

While it is true that an additional non-working holiday would mean reduced productivity, the benefits derived from a united and peaceful nation far outweighs the revenues that could be generated from these two (2) days if the same are devoted for work.

It is, therefore, the objective of this bill to institutionalize the observance of these important dates in the Philippine religious and cultural history in order to foster unity as well as political and economic stability of the nation.

In view of the urgency of this measure, its immediate enactment is earnestly requested.


FEDERICO S. SANDOVAL II
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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 26 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the political and economic stability by way of fostering better understanding among the different religious-cultural groups in the country.

SECTION 2. Section 26 of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, shall be 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 this country:

(A) Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
Maundy Thursday	Movable Date
Good Friday	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan (Bataan and Corregidor Day)	April 9
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	June 12
IGLESIA NI KRISTO FOUNDATION DAY	July 27
National Heroes Day	Last Sunday of August
Bonifacio Day	November 30
Christmas Day	December 25
LAST DAY OF RAMADAN	Movable Date
Rizal Day	December 30

(A) Nationwide Special Days

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

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect 15 days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general and nationwide circulation.

Approved.