



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

13TH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4705

Introduced by **HON. ANTONIO C. ALVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a nation of diverse cultures. The cultural diversity results not only from the rich cultural heritage handed by our forefathers, but likewise from the religious plurality practiced by the people. This diversity has advantages, but certain cultural differences fueled by religious passion have torn 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 recently set an example by issuing a Proclamation which declares the last day of Ramadan (Ebeul Fitir), an important day observed by our Muslim brothers, a non-working holiday.

On the other hand, the Iglesia Ni Kristo consider July 14, 1914, the church's foundation day, a sacred day which all faithfuls could otherwise be devoted for work.

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

In view of the foregoing of this measure, its immediate enactment will be earnestly enjoined.


ANTONIO C. ALVAREZ

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

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote political and economic stability by way of fostering better understanding among 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 14
National Heroes Day -----	Last Sunday of August
Bonifacio Day -----	November 30
Christmas Day -----	December 25
LAST DAY OF RAMADAN -----	December 30

(B) Nationwide Special Days

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

(2) The term “legal or regular holiday” and “special holiday,” as used in laws, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances shall be referred to as “regular holiday” and special day,” respectively.”

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.