

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 5405

Introduced by **Honorable Del R. de Guzman**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Being the only Christian nation in Asia, the Philippines has always regarded religion and their act of worship to their God important. This is why Section 5, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "[t]he free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed."

Thus, several religions have spread out bringing good news to people who are in need of moral and spiritual guidance. One of these is the *Iglesia ni Cristo* (INC), the second biggest religious group next to Roman Catholicism.

The INC was founded on 27 July 1914 by the late Brother Felix Y. Manalo in Punta, Sta. Ana or what is now known as the Pasig River. From a few hundred, it has presently grown to a congregation of millions through the dynamic leadership of its hierarchy and vibrant faith of its members. It has now established several hundred *kapilyas* found not only in the Philippines, but also in different parts of the globe. This is a testament that the INC is very much relevant to the changing times as it serves even the material needs not only of its flock but of many other marginalized Filipino families as well. This it has done effectively through its outreach programs on education, youth development, family counseling, health, and socioeconomic and community extension services.

Their achievement of successfully enriching the quality of lives of countless citizens both here and abroad and producing followers that are assets to the society is very noteworthy. It has also played an important role in the country's social, economic and political growth through its continued support to the programs and projects of the government it finds acceptable. This it has done without sacrificing its mission of first and foremost being a moral and spiritual guide to its flock.

It is, therefore, the objective of this bill to institutionalize the observance of the founding day of the *Iglesia ni Cristo* recognizing the Church's significance to the country as it

leads and takes care its followers on the one hand, and promotes the political and economic stability of the nation on the other.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval and passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



DEL R. DE GUZMAN
Representative
Lone District, Marikina City

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5405

Introduced by **Honorable DEL R. DE GUZMAN**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF JULY EVERY YEAR, A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY, IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (INC), AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

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

SECTION 2. The twenty-seventh day of July every year is hereby declared as a special working holiday in observance of the founding anniversary of the *Iglesia ni Cristo* (INC).

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,