

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5697



Introduced by Hon. Maria Isabelle G. Climaco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For more than thirty (30) years peace in Mindanao has remained illusive owing to many factors, not only economic in nature but culturally as well. The Government of the Philippines exerts considerable effort to seek and promote peace throughout the region primarily via renewed peace negotiations currently under way in Malaysia.

The United Nations Organization, in a resolution adopted by the General Assembly, recognizes the imperative for dialogue among differing faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony, and cooperation among peoples.

Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence as well as interreligious and intercultural dialogues, the United Nation proclaimed in 2010 the formation of "World Interfaith Harmony Week" celebrated annually in the first week of February among all religions and faiths. The UN encourages all nations to support this celebration in an effort to carry the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in all places of worship worldwide based upon the foundational teachings of love of God and neighbor in accordance with their religious traditions and practices.

Last February, the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines (NUCP) staged a simple gathering in Zamboanga City called "World Interfaith Harmony Week." Various groups, celebrities and VIPs participated.

This bill seeks to promote a just and lasting peace for the entire Philippine Nation and to support the United Nation's call for the establishment of a Culture of Peace, via civil and non-violent dialogue among diverse faiths and religions.

In view of the foregoing considerations approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.

MARIA ISABELLE G. CLIMACO
Representative
1st District of Zamboanga City

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AN ACT DECLARING EVERY FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY OF EACH YEAR AS "WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK" AND MANDATING THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SAID EVENT BY THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

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

Section 1. It is hereby declared that every first week of February of each year as "World Interfaith Harmony Week" and mandating the observance of the said event by the different government agencies.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,