

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

Fifteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6355



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Palompon is the oldest town in northwestern Leyte to date as evidenced in the 1568 ancient map of *DeLas Yslas Philipinas* crafted by Pedro Murillo Velarde who was then commissioned by the Spanish Crown. In the entire Province of Leyte, Palompon is not only one of the oldest but also one of the biggest municipalities in terms of population and land area.

Every 3rd day of December is Palompon, Leyte's fiesta celebration to honor her patron saint, the venerable St. Francis Xavier. However, inasmuch as the annual town fiesta is more of a religious than a civil occasion, the current leadership of the local government unit deems it proper to put a more secular / political dimension to the memorable event.

The third "whereas clause" of Resolution No. 358-270212 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Palompon, Leyte states "WHEREAS, the Palomponganons deem it right and fit to have a day declared as their Foundation Day in order to underscore the returns and gains of the defined thrust and priorities of the local government in addressing development issues and concerns".

In a position paper on the subject, the incumbent Mayor Ramon C. Onate of Palompon maintains that "to inaugurate a very important and significant date of the municipality to reckon with, e.g.: Palompon Foundation Day, would be simply historic, educational, promotional, logical and binding to the local populace. It undoubtedly seals a solid panorama of inspiration and jacks up determination for success and of better living."

By way of precedent, the Municipality of Tanauan in Leyte was benefited with its own foundation day. This is found in Republic Act No. 7689 entitled, "An Act Declaring August Fifteen Of Every Year A Special Non-Working Public Holiday in the Municipality of Tanauan, Province of Leyte, to be known as the "Tanauan Day." It is safely presumed that many other local government units (provinces, cities and municipalities) have similar legislation which established their own foundation day.

Parenthetically, the proximity of December 3 to Christmas Day, December 25, and New Year's Eve, December 31, practically makes for a month-long celebration when out-of-town and out-of-the-country Palomponganons come home to be reunited with their loved ones.

In view of the foregoing, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT
DECLARING DECEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR AS PALOMPON
FOUNDATION DAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PALOMPON,
PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND A SPECIAL NONWORKING
PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY

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

SECTION 1. December 3 of every year is hereby declared as Palompon Foundation Day in the Municipality of Palompon, Province of Leyte and a special nonworking public holiday in the municipality.

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

Approved,