

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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1131



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On November 5, 1991, heavy rains spawned by Tropical Storm Thelma (local name: Typhoon "Oreng") roared down the hills of Ormoc City carrying logs and uprooted trees, and inundated the Ormoc River. Just within an hour or so, one of the most devastating and deadliest tragedies in modern Philippine history occurred. About 8,000 people perished and properties worth millions of pesos were destroyed. An outpouring of sympathy from the global community immediately followed.

This bill seeks to declare November 5 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte, to be known as the Ormoc Flash Flood Memorial Day, in honor of all those who died in the tragedy.

Most proposed legislation seek to commemorate foundation days or charter days of localities, epochal events in our history, natal days of prominent personalities, etc. But why memorialize a "tragedy"?

Studies have persistently shown that the Philippines is one of the countries in the world most vulnerable to climate change. Hence, adaptation and disaster-mitigation strategies have occupied increasing attention in government policy formulations. Sustainable development, with its emphasis on environmental awareness, has become not only a fashionable statement but a life and death struggle in certain especially "at risk" communities. Perhaps, we could not do much regarding unpredictable "Mt. Pinatubo-type of calamities" but we could certainly mitigate if not prevent the effects of another "Ormoc disaster."

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



LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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AN ACT
DECLARING NOVEMBER 5 OF EVERY YEAR AS SPECIAL
NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ORMOC,
PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ORMOC
FLASH FLOOD MEMORIAL DAY

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

SECTION 1. November 5 of every year is hereby declared as the Ormoc Flash Flood Memorial Day in the City of Ormoc, Province of Leyte and a special nonworking public holiday in the city.

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

Approved,