

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2099**



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The lives of great men and women, who once walked the earth must be revisited. They abound with good deeds deserving not only emulation but as a general template upon which we should pattern our lives. Their good deeds are legacy to our generation for our guidance to improve our quality of life.

Pursuant to this basic principle, the State must rally its populace to focus on how certain persons were able to contribute to the growth and development of our world in general and our areas in particular. St. Francis of Assisi was an Italian Catholic Friar and preacher. He is known as the patron saint of animals, the environment and one of the two patrons of Italy (with Catherine of Siena). He preached that man must protect and enjoy nature as both are stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves.

With the nagging environmental problems (flooding in particular) directly affecting the daily lives of Bulakeños, we look up to St. Francis of Assisi as an environment persona. He is a symbol of hope for a better life in flood-prone Bulacan. We are confident that with St. Francis of Assisi at the apex in environmental advocacy, it will be more feasible to harness and actualize the conduct of sustained flood-mitigating measures from his devotees and ordinary citizens as well.

This proposed bill seeks to declare every 4th day of October, being the annual fiesta of Meycauayan City also the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a non-working holiday. This will enable State to initially explain the import of this occasion. Trade fairs and other fund-raising activities will be launched by the city government in coordination with the private sector to commemorate the significance of the day. As the city folk perpetuate the memory of St. Francis of Assisi the city will continue to raise revenues to improve their quality of lives. This, notwithstanding the stoppage of regular work in the area.

In the 15th Congress this bill was approved on 2nd Reading by the House of Representatives Plenary and was transmitted to the Senate on 6 February 2013. Due to time constraints, however, no further action was taken on the bill. The same is refiled for the consideration of the 16th Congress.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY
IN THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

SECTION 1. October 4 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the City of Meycauayan, Province of Bulacan, in commemoration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

SEC. 2. All government officials of the City of Meycauayan are mandated to lead appropriate and meaningful celebrations, financial activities and programs participated in by regional heads of departments and other government offices and their respective employees and other civic, sports, religious and non-governmental organizations and private companies doing business in the area.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,