



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3762

---

**Introduced by:**

**REP. FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS**, 1<sup>ST</sup> District, Surigao del Norte (*Siargao Island*)  
**REP. GUILLERMO A. ROMARATE, JR.**, 2<sup>ND</sup> District, Surigao del Norte

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It was on May 15, 1901 when ~~Surigao~~ Surigao was first established as a province in Mindanao and was named Surigao Province by virtue of Act 127 entitled "An Act Extending the Provisions of the Provincial Government Act to the Province of Surigao". Section 5 of the said Act explicitly states that x x x "the Capital of the Province shall be at the town of Surigao" x x x which refers to the present City of Surigao, the capital of the present Province of Surigao del Norte.

Though Surigao Province was then divided into the two provinces of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur on June 19, 1960 by virtue of Republic Act 2766, it is worth noting and remembering that there has already been a Province of Surigao before 1960 whose capital was situated in the Province of Surigao del Norte.

The Chair Maria Serena I. Diokno of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), when asked for comment regarding the proposal to repeal RA 7553, said:

*In 1860, the present Surigao del Norte was part of the East district, one politico-military districts in Mindanao, which around 1870 became known as the District of Surigao. The district was converted into the Province of Surigao through Act 127 in 1901. The provinces of Surigao del Norte and Sur were created out of the old Surigao Province by virtue of R.A. 2786 dated June 19, 1960.*

*Celebrating 19 June 1960 as the foundation day of Surigao del Norte simply refers to its formal establishment as a province, and not to its existence for hundreds of years.<sup>1</sup>*

---

<sup>1</sup> Letter of Chair Diokno dated 6 September 2011 to Mr. Cruje, Coordinator, Provincial Planning & Development Office, Province of Surigao del Norte

Therefore, in celebrating the birth of the Province of Surigao, it is not historically accurate to begin counting on the day the Province was divided into the two provinces of Surigao del Norte and Sur. The Surigaonons should have a sense of heritage and culture in knowing that there has been a Province of Surigao 112 years ago and that they are a people with proud history and glorious past. Thus the need to repeal RA 7553.

In order to preserve, value and celebrate the historical milestone of May 15, 1901, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS**



**GUILLERMO A. ROMARATE, JR.**



Republic of the Philippines

## **House of Representatives**

Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Sixteenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 3762

---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS AND  
GUILLERMO A. ROMARATE, JR.**

---

**AN ACT DECLARING MAY 15 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS  
'ADLAW NAN PROBINSYA NAN SURIGAO' AND REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7553**

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

1           SECTION 1. May Fifteen (15) of every year is hereby declared as a special  
2 non-working holiday in the entire Province of Surigao del Norte to be known  
3 as "Adlaw nan Probinsya nan Surigao"

4  
5           SECTION 2. Republic Act No. 7553, entitled "An Act Declaring June  
6 Nineteen of Every Year as a Special Nonworking Holiday in the Province of  
7 Surigao del Norte, to be Known as Adlaw Nan Surigao del Norte" is hereby  
8 repealed. All other laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations and  
9 other issuances inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby  
10 deemed amended and modified accordingly.

11  
12           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication  
13 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two newspapers of national circulation.

14  
15           Approved,