

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4138



Introduced by Representative Kaka J. Bag-ao

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 9 December 1934, Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr., the founder and Supreme President of Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, Inc. (PBMA), was born in Cabilan in the town of Dinagat.

At an early age, Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. started his mission as a spiritual leader and faith healer, and has travelled in many parts of Visayas and Mindanao. Eventually, he gained a lot of followers from different parts of the country some of whom became his loyal supporters. It is at this time that the early doctrines of PBMA were established.

As the leader of PBMA, Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. always tells his members to "detach" themselves from money as it destroys the life of man. He constantly reminds the members "*Matam-is kanunay ang mapag-ubos*" (It is always sweet to be humble), and advises them to observe humility and live a God-centered life.

Aside from being the leader of the PBMA, Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. holds the record for serving the longest term as local executive in Dinagat for 24 years until his demise on December 20, 1987.

The PBMA—an organization of people who dedicated their lives for the service of humanity without expecting any monetary benefits, do charitable works by serving others faithfully, and giving help voluntarily—was officially registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Despite his death, the legacy of Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. still remains until today. Thus, the *Sanggunian Panlalawigan* of Dinagat Islands issued Ordinance No. BBE-03, Series of 2013 entitled "*Declaring Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. as Local Hero of the Province*

of Dinagat Islands and for Other Purposes". The above cited ordinance states the following, to wit:

"1. That, the former late Mayor Ruben E. Ecleo, Sr., was known to be of good standing and undefeated Political Leader during his incumbency as Municipal Mayor;

2. That, he had a number of accomplishments during his term as the mayor of the Municipality of Dinagat;

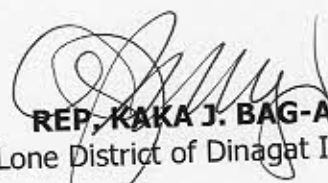
3. That, Ruben, Sr. is the founder and was then the Supreme President of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, Inc. whose main objective is to promote the spirit of brotherhood, sisterhood and above all love of country and Divine Providence;

4. That, he had contributed total development not only in the Municipality of Dinagat where he was the Local Chief Executive but in the entire islands indoctrinated and encouraged to do good things for the welfare of all;

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- ❖ A strong believer that a good leadership should be both professional and personal;*
- ❖ Named "South's Mysterious Superstar" by WHO Magazine in 1980, avowed as the Plenipotentiary of the Knights of Malta and once upon a time had become the President of the Mayors' League of the Philippines, in region X; and*
- ❖ Adjudged as the Most Outstanding Mayor of the Philippines in 1969, and through his relentless effort, San Jose was once declared the Most Outstanding Barangay of the Philippines."*

In recognition of the immense contribution of Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. to the Province of Dinagat Islands, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. KAKA J. BAG-AO
Lone District of Dinagat Islands

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**AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 9 OF EACH YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS TO
COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF "LOCAL HERO"
RUBEN EDERA ECLEO, SR.**

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

Section 1. To commemorate the birth anniversary of Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, Inc. (PBMA) founder Ruben Ecleo, Sr., December 9 of each year is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday throughout the entire Province of Dinagat Islands by virtue of *Sanggunian Panlalawigan* of Dinagat Islands Ordinance No. BBE-03 entitled "*Declaring Ruben Edera Ecleo, Sr. as Local Hero of the Province of Dinagat Islands and for Other Purposes*".

Section 2. All laws, orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,