

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 636



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1679, the first major Spanish settlement in the island of Camiguin was established in Catarman, then called Katagman or Katadman. This settlement grew and prospered. However, the eruption of Mount Vulcan Daan on May 1, 1871 destroyed the town and portions thereof were submerged beneath the sea, including what is now known as the Sunken Cemetery. All that remains of old Catarman are the ruins of the ancient Spanish church, its convent, and bell tower. After the volcanic eruption, the settlement moved to where the center of the Municipality of Catarman is presently located.

Due to lack of historical records, the exact date of the founding of Catarman is unknown. It has nevertheless been the tradition of residents to celebrate the founding of Catarman on the same day as the town fiesta on the feast of Saint Roch, the town's patron saint, every fifteenth (15th) of August. Hence, to commemorate the foundation day anniversary of Catarman, Republic Act No. 9203 provides that August 15 of every year is a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Catarman, Province of Camiguin.

The Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Catarman, after consultation with barangay officials and town residents, passed Resolution No. 25, Series of 2011, earnestly asking that the special non-working holiday for purposes of commemorating the foundation day anniversary of Catarman be moved from August 15 to August 30 of each year. This change is requested in order to give local officials and residents ample time and opportunity to fully give attention to and actively participate in the various activities in lined up every year to celebrate the founding of Catarman. Hence, this proposed measure was originally filed in the 15th Congress. It was filed again in the 16th Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives on Third Reading.

It is hoped that this bill finally becomes a law in the 17th Congress. The support of the Members of Congress for the prompt and timely passage of this measure is ardently sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "X - [Signature]".

XAVIER JESUS D. ROMUALDO

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9023, ENTITLED AN ACT DECLARING THE
FIFTEEN (15TH) DAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN, PROVINCE OF
CAMIGUIN, TO BE KNOWN AS CATARMAN DAY, BY MOVING THE DATE OF
CATARMAN DAY TO THE THIRTIETH (30TH) DAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY
YEAR

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9203 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "SECTION 1. August [Fifteenth (15th)] THIRTIETH (30TH) of every
4 year is hereby declared as a special nonworking holiday in the
5 Municipality of Catarman, Province of Camiguin, to commemorate
6 its foundation day anniversary, TO BE KNOWN AS CATARMAN
7 DAY."

8 SEC. 2. The Municipal Government of Catarman in the Province of Camiguin
9 shall disseminate, through means it deems proper and expedient, the change
10 of the date of Catarman Day to its component barangays, as well as to the
11 Provincial Government of Camiguin, for proper coordination of activities.

12 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
13 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

14 Approved,