

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 5207



Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

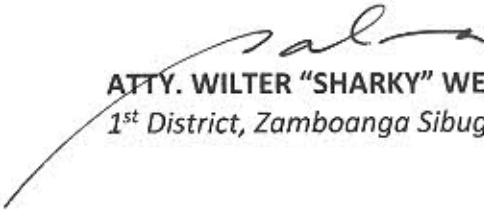
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare February 24 of every year as "*Araw ng Sibugay*" and a special non-working holiday in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

The Province of Zamboanga Sibugay was created by virtue of Republic Act 8973 which was enacted into law by President Joseph Estrada on November 7, 2000. On February 24, 2001, RA 8973 was ratified through a plebiscite conducted in 44 municipalities of Zamboanga del Sur and Pagadian City. The Province of Zamboanga Sibugay became the 79th province of the Philippines comprising sixteen (16) municipalities and 389 barangays. Based on 2015 census, Zamboanga Sibugay is home to approximately 633,129 inhabitants which belong to various ethnicities and religious beliefs. These differences however, are not impeding the people from continuing to strive for the improvement of their well-being and gearing themselves for progress.

The declaration of February 24 of every year as "*Araw ng Sibugay*" and a special non-working holiday will allow its people to celebrate and honor the humble beginnings and the history of the province. It will encourage every Sibugaynon to be part of the celebrations which honor the continuing efforts of the people to improve pursuant to sustainable development of the community that they are part of. Being a multi-ethnic province, the festivities will be an opportunity to gather everyone as a testament of working together towards one unified direction.

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


ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II
1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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AN ACT
DECLARING FEBRUARY 24 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL (NON-WORKING)
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY TO BE KNOWN AS
"ARAW NG SIBUGAY"

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

SECTION 1. February 24 of every year is hereby declared a special (non-working) holiday in the entire Province of Zamboanga Sibugay in commemoration of its founding anniversary to be known as "*Araw ng Sibugay*".

In the event that the holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on the Monday that follows.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,