

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8215



Introduced by Rep. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

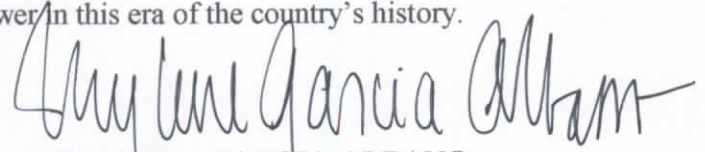
Pursuant to Republic Act Nos. 7551 and 7685, the City of Davao celebrates its foundation anniversary on March 16th of every year. This is premised on the assumption that that Davao City was founded on March 16, 1937. Over time, however, pieces of evidence were discovered showing that Davao City was actually founded on March 1, 1937.

Recently, the City Council of Davao, through its Committee on Rules, Privileges, Laws and Ordinances, conducted an inquiry to determine the basis of Republic Act 7685 in declaring March 16 as the Foundation Day of the City and found out no factual basis supporting the same. In fact, in the minutes of the House deliberations dated August 18, 1993 on which RA No. 7685 was approved, Congressman Sergio Antonio Apostol of Leyte merely moved for the declaration of the "Araw ng Dabaw" to be March 16 without citing any factual or historical basis.

On the contrary, the Committee discovered significant evidence showing that Davao City was founded on March 1, 1937 such as markers on historic landmarks, two of which are found in the City Hall of Davao itself and a local legislation – Resolution No. 25 promulgated by the 5th Council of Davao City which covered the period 1972 to 1975, indicating that Araw ng Dabaw should be celebrated on March 1 of every year which was prompted by a Resolution of the Davao Historical Society then led by Dean Florendo R. Mangaoil.

With these findings, the City Council unanimously approved Resolution Number 01946-18 informing the Congress of the Philippines that the "Araw ng Dabaw" or Foundation Day of Davao City is actually March 1, 1937 stating that for the date of the "Araw ng Dabaw" to be historically correct, there is a need to amend/repeal Republic Act No. 7685.

Along these premises, the prompt approval of this measure is earnestly sought and recommended to correct a historical inaccuracy in Davao City's evolution as a major urban center of the country, and arguably the seat of power in this era of the country's history.


MYLENE J. GARCIA-ALBANO
2nd District, Davao City

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AN ACT

DECLARING MARCH 1 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF DAVAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE "ARAW NG DABAW," REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7551 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7685

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

SECTION 1. March 1 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working public holiday in the City of Davao to be known as the "Araw ng Dabaw" to commemorate its foundation day.

SECTION 2. On March 1 of every year, the officials of Davao City shall lead appropriate and meaningful celebrations and activities that give significance and meaning to the founding fathers of the City, its glorious history and contributions to national development, among others, to be participated in by officials and employees of the national and local governments, agencies and instrumentalities, civic, religious and non-government organizations, private companies and other interested parties.

SECTION 3. Republic Act Number 7551 and Republic Act No. 7685 are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,