

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 38



Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Marinduque, known to be the “Heart of the Philippines” and home of the Moriones Festival has a well-recorded history of its foundation day.

Marinduque, along with Mindoro, on the southeast portion of Laguna and Camarines, was made a part of Batangas when the latter was founded in 1581 by Spaniards.

Early in the 17th century, the island of Marinduque was separated from Batangas and became a part of Mindoro as a *corregimiento*. In 1671, Marinduque functioned as a province but was later reduced as a Mindoro sub-province. This period in Marinduque’s colorful history continue to show the flip-flopping status of its independence as a province.

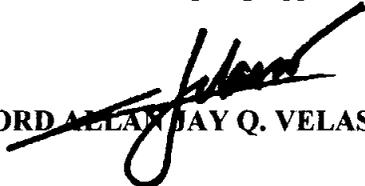
On the 28th of April 1898, with the overthrow of the last Spanish *casadores* (Tagalog soldiers) after armed conflict and hostilities with the revolutionists during the Philippine-Spanish War, Marinduque declared its separation from Mindoro and from Spanish rule. This declaration was ratified by the ruling class from different towns of the island province. Martin Lardizabal, the military governor of Marinduque’s first revolutionary provincial government, led the local struggle.

On 01 May 1901, Marinduque was finally converted into a new province by virtue of Philippine Commission Act No. 125. However, the celebration would be short-lived. On 10 November 1902, by virtue of Act No. 499, Marinduque was annexed to the Province of Tayabas (now Quezon). Furthermore, on 17 May 1907, it was declared a sub-province of Tayabas under Act No. 1649 with Juan Nieva as Lieutenant Governor.

Finally, on 21 February 1920, Act. No. 2880 re-established the Province of Marinduque as a separate and independent province from Tayabas.

A province’s founding anniversary is a reminder to the local community about the long-standing culture and traditions of the province. It also boosts the morale of everyone in the community. The annual festivities that often accompany this type of holiday build stronger bonds among the local population. Hence, without a doubt, the celebrations and festivities during municipal, city and provincial foundation days form part and parcel of the Filipino culture.

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


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 38

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

**AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘ARAW NG
MARINDUQUE,’ A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF
MARINDUQUE**

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

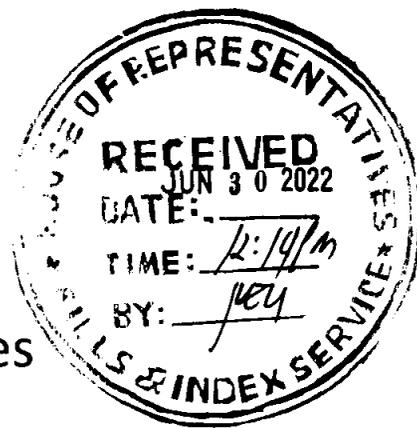
SECTION 1. February 21 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Marinduque, to be known as “Araw ng Marinduque,” in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

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

Approved,



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 39

Introduced by **HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO**

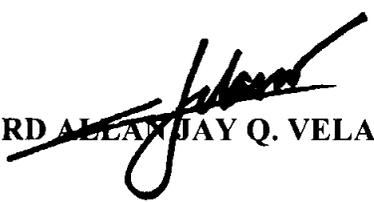
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is well-known as one of only two Christian countries in Asia. Its history dates to 1521 when Ferdinand Magellan reached Philippine shores. It was then that the conversion of the indigenous people to Christianity began.

Since then, not only have we been known for being a Christian-denominated country, but we have also been known for our grand celebration of Christian occasions. The observance of the Holy Week is one of the most significant Catholic occasions observed in the country. In the Province of Marinduque, the people have held the Moriones Festival since 1807. It was initiated by the Parish Priest of Mogpog, Marinduque, Father Dionisio Santiago. Presently, it is celebrated every Holy Week with the people wearing colorful costumes and masks similar to that of Roman soldiers. The people of Marinduque celebrate the Moriones Festival as a way of atonement for their sins. The ceremony is a re-enactment of the biblical story of Saint Longinus who was a Roman soldier who had one blind eye. It is known that Saint Longinus struck Jesus on his side with his spear. The blood of Jesus spurted onto the blind eye of Saint Longinus curing him of his blindness.

Given that it originated in the Province of Marinduque, and their annual celebration of it, the Moriones Festival has become a part of the identity of the people of Marinduque. Accordingly, it is proper to declare the Province of Marinduque as the home of the Moriones Festival. This would bring great pride to the people of Marinduque.

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


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **39**

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS THE HOME OF
THE MORIONES FESTIVAL**

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to preserve and promote historical and cultural artifacts.

The Province of Marinduque is hereby declared as the Home of the Moriones Festival which is celebrated every Holy Week. It started in Mogpog, Marinduque in 1807 as initiated by its then Parish Priest, Father Dionisio Santiago. The tradition of celebrating the Moriones Festival is centered on the story of Saint Longinus, a Roman centurion who has one blind eye, but was miraculously cured when he pierced the side of the crucified Jesus Christ and our Savior's blood restored Saint Longinus' sight. The Moriones Festival is a re-enactment of the biblical story of Saint Longinus. During the week-long celebration of the Moriones Festival, the people of Marinduque wear colorful masks and costumes similar to the Roman soldiers.

Sec. 2. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall feature the Moriones Festival in its overall tourism promotion program.

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

Approved,