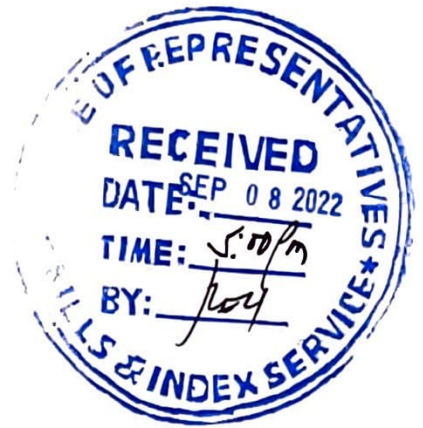


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4613



Introduced by HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

**AN ACT DECLARING THE "KUYAMIS FESTIVAL" AS THE OFFICIAL
FESTIVAL OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

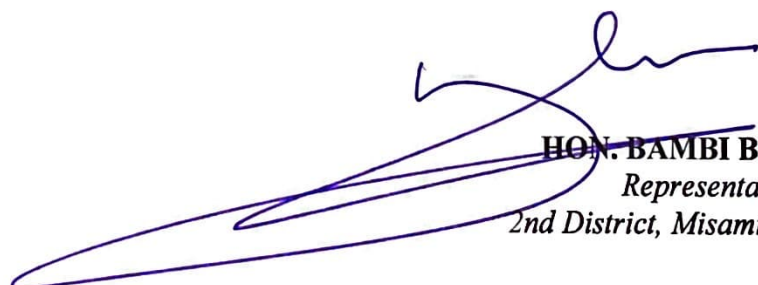
It is innate to us, Filipinos, the love to celebrate and socialize. Even when we are dealing with significant issues, we always find ways to have fun. It is how we handle the pressures of our daily lives and the moral quandaries that affect us. The celebration of fiestas or festivals play a crucial role in defining our cultural identity.

"Kuyamis" is a term used to define golden-colored coconuts that was used by the indigenous people of Misamis Oriental to sustain their livelihood in the olden times. The term "Misamis" is said to have originally meant the "Land of Golden Coconuts" in historical studies, according to folklore. Since then, the celebration created the Misamis Oriental's ethnic identity, which filled every Misamisnon with inspiration and pride.

Held every second week of January, Kuyamis Festival is a celebration for thanksgiving of bounty. It highlights every municipality's distinctive economic identity by showcasing their top-of-the-line by-products for consumers, locals, and tourists. It also features the coconut-inspired booths which boasts structural designs primarily constructed from coconut goods as pieces of artwork.

The objective of this measure is to declare the 'Kuyamis Festival' as the official festival of the province of Misamis Oriental.

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


HON. BAMBI B. EMANO
Representative
2nd District, Misamis Oriental

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Misamis Oriental Kuyamis Festival Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sustainable tourism through the preservation and conservation of the country's rich cultural diversities as mirrored in celebrations and festivals. Towards this end, the State shall support efforts that instill Filipino values and identity and provide a strong sense of belonging, while boosting the tourism industry which is a major source of livelihood and employment.

SECTION 3. Festival Declaration. Kuyamis Festival is hereby declared an official festival in the Province of Misamis Oriental to be celebrated as part of the commemoration of the province in sustaining the livelihood of its people.

SECTION 4. Festival Fund. To carry out the purposes of this Act, there shall be created a special festival fund, which may be sourced out from the Internal Revenue Allotment of the City or from other possible sources such as donations and contributions from benevolent individuals and organizations.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the City Government, the Office of the District Representative, barangay officials and other select individuals and organizations, shall formulate, and issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, or issuance, any parts thereof which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,