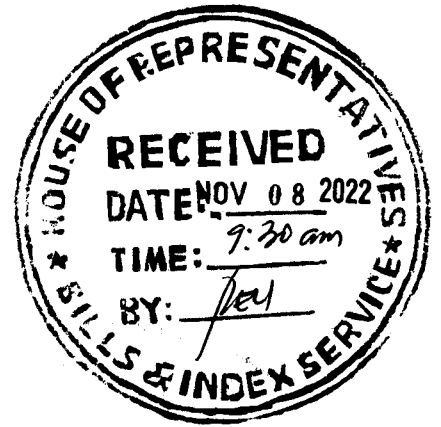




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5905



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS THE CHRISTMAS CAPITAL
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is known for having one of the longest Christmas celebrations around the world. As soon as September comes, Christmas lights starts to glitter and shine as parols start to be hung from homes, streetlights and in the malls for everyone's merriment.¹

The City of San Fernando in Pampanga is no stranger to this merry occasion. In fact, the city is the place where excellent craftsmen of these parols can be found. San Fernandinos pride themselves as the makers of beautiful giant lanterns. Their crafts are so much prized that the City holds its annual "Ligligan Parul" or the Giant Lantern Festival where hundreds of parols are displayed—showcasing the excellent craftsmanship of the people as well as their commitment in celebrating the Yuletide season.

Since the 1990s, the City claims the title of the "Home of the Giant Lanterns".² This is due in part to the establishment of the Paskuhan Village which was inaugurated on December 11, 1990 to provide visitors a real Philippine Christmas experience year-round. Aside from giving insight into traditional Filipino Christmas practices, the Village serves as a venue for the display and sale of locally manufactured, export-quality products and services.

The first of its kind in Asia, the Village is shaped like a giant lantern sprawling on 9.3 hectares of land in San Fernando, Pampanga. It features the Village shops, a Christmas museum, food courts, conference facilities, and entertainment venues.

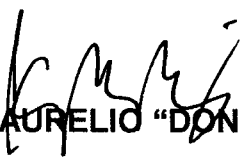
¹ <https://flyingketchup.ph/why-the-philippines-is-the-christmas-capital-of-the-world/>

² <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/856313/san-fernando-still-ph-christmas-capital>

This distinction was further elevated when CNN International recognized the City of San Fernando as "Asia's Christmas Capital".³ No wonder thousands of people flock the city and nearby municipalities to participate in the festivities and perhaps purchase some of these wonderful parols to bring back home.

Seeing the international recognition, it is high time that the nation recognizes the entire province of Pampanga as the Christmas Capital of the Philippines. This will further boost the Province's thriving Christmas traditions, as well as provide additional livelihood to my fellow Cabalen.⁴

It is for these reasons that we seek for the passage of this meaningful piece of legislation, as we Filipinos look forward to this merry season more than any other nation in the world.


REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
3rd District, Pampanga

³ <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/san-fernando-philippines-christmas/index.html>

⁴ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1666447/pampanga-lantern-makers-create-jobs-in-christmas-capital>



HOUSE BILL NO. 5905

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS THE "CHRISTMAS CAPITAL
OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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

SECTION 1. The Province of Pampanga is hereby declared the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines" in recognition of the economic and cultural significance of the lantern-making industry which has existed for several decades and has been a significant contributor to the economy of the Province of Pampanga.

SECTION 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism shall promulgate the necessary orders and circulars for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders, proclamations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,