



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5929



Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to declare March 7 of every year a special non-working holiday in the province of Basilan and recognize the Tennun Pakaradjaan as the province's official festival.

Basilan has a rich and colorful history that is deeply rooted in the diversity of the its people, their love of the land and sea, and their resilience in overcoming the greatest of adversities.

The province's history starts in the early American period where the whole island was still a part of Zamboanga. In 1948, Basilan was declared a city by virtue of a legislative measure that was passed into law – Republic Act No. 288 – causing its separation from Zamboanga.

In 1973, a new law was decreed converting Basilan into a province. The first appointed provincial officials took their oath of office on March 7, 1974, making this day the official Founding Anniversary of the province.

At present, the province of Basilan is the fourth largest in terms of land area in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It is politically subdivided into two

(2) component cities and eleven municipalities. It is the homeland of peace-loving people known for having rich and colorful culture and traditions.

Its commemoration of its Foundation Day is always celebrated by the Tennun Pakaradjaan, or the festival inspired by the Tennun or the hand-woven fabric known for its intricate design that truly represents the ingenuity of Basilan craftsmanship.

Given these premises, it is most fitting and proper that the people of the province of Basilan be given full opportunity to celebrate and participate in the occasion with appropriate ceremonies. And of secondary importance is to recognize the Tennun Pakaradjaan as the official festival of Basilan, much like the Ati-Atihan of Aklan, the Sinulog Festival of Cebu, and the Kadayawan Festival of Davao.

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


HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



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**AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 7 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS
FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS “ARAW NG BASILAN”, AND
RECOGNIZING “TENNUN PAKARADJAAN” AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF
BASILAN PROVINCE**

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

SECTION 1. March 7 of every year is hereby declared as special nonworking holiday in the province of Basilan, to be known as ‘Araw ng Basilan,’ in commemoration of its founding anniversary, and “Tennun Pakaradjaan” shall be the official festival of the province.

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,