



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5964

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to declare April 25 of every year a special non-working holiday in Isabela City, Basilan, in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

Isabela City is a 4th class city located in the northern part of the province of Basilan. It is home to different ethnolinguistic groups and its current population stands at 130,130.

It serves as the center of commerce, industry, and services of Basilan. Residents of other municipalities of the said province and the neighboring Zamboanga City come to Isabela City for employment opportunities, tourism and trade.

The city was granted cityhood by virtue of Republic Act No. 9023 signed on March 5, 2001 which was ratified into law on April 25, 2001.

The Foundation Day of the city has been celebrated through the Sakayan Festival.

Sakayan is a term shared by most of the ethnolinguistic groups living in harmony in Isabela City, which could mean a boat, a water craft or vessel, or a transport station or terminal.

More importantly, Sakayan mirrors the Basileños lineage deeply rooted in the Austronesian race. Austronesians are said to be sea dwellers and were the first ones to invent

ocean-going sailing technologies which allowed them to spread in various parts of the Indo – Pacific region, including the Philippine archipelago. Austronesian culture is still very much visible in the day to day island life and way of living of the people in Isabela city.

Moreover, Sakayan highlights the city’s strategic location which brought many cultural, social and political influences into the city, all contributing to the vibrant life it has today. It also reflects fishing as one of the major sources of livelihood in Isabela City which gives a fitting tribute to the small fishing boat.

In view of all of the foregoing, it is most fitting and proper that the people of Isabela City be given full opportunity to celebrate and participate in the celebration of their Foundation Day, and give honor to its roots.

Hence, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. MUJIV S. BATAMAN
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



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**AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 25 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN IN
COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS
“ARAW NG ISABELA DE BASILAN, ARAW NG SAKAYAN”**

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

SECTION 1. April 25 of every year is hereby declared as special nonworking holiday in Isabela City, Basilan in commemoration of its founding anniversary, to be known as “ARAW NG ISABELA DE BASILAN, ARAW NG SAKAYAN”.

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,