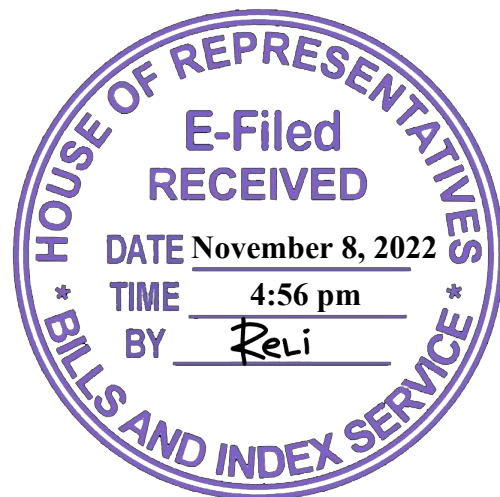




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5965

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Basilan has been known to be a melting pot of different cultures from Christian and the Muslim faith alike. Its people have been co-existing in harmony despite many challenges in peace and security for so long. Because of the perseverance of the people of Basilan, it has overcome many of those peace and security challenges and today, Basilan is known to be one of the most inclusive and peace-loving communities in the Sulu Archipelago and the Philippines in general. People from different faiths, are free to express and celebrate their roots, cultures, and traditions in the province.

Isabela City, a component city of the province of Basilan has a very rich history that adds to the flavor of the Isabeleño culture. While most parts of the province are inhabited by people from the Islamic faith, Isabela City is predominantly Catholic Christian, as Spanish voyagers, including Ferdinand Magellan, passed by the islands during the period of their conquest. Consequently, many cultures and traditions of the Spaniards were assimilated in the local culture including the Catholic Christian faith. In fact, Isabela City was named so, in honor of Reina Isabela Segunda (Queen Isabel II of Spain).

For many years, Isabeleños celebrate “Fiesta Alegria na Ciudad de Isabela” every eighth of July to celebrate its patron saint Santa Isabel de Portugal (St. Elizabeth of Portugal). Like many feasts in the country, Fiesta Alegria brought in people and families together to participate in different activities.

Beyond its religious context, this feast has become a platform for different people coming together as one community through the various activities lined up every year. These activities elevate the historical, and cultural appreciation and consciousness of those who take part in the celebration. Fiesta Alegria through the years have fostered a sense of unity amidst diversity, and proves that pluralism can indeed pave way to community development.

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



HON. MUJIV HATAMAN
Representative
Lone District of Basilan



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HOUSE BILL NO. 5965

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

**AN ACT DECLARING JULY 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN IN
CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, TO BE
KNOWN AS FIESTA ALEGRIA DE ISABELA**

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

SECTION 1. July 8 of every year is hereby declared as special nonworking holiday in Isabela City, Basilan in celebration of the feast of St. Elizabeth of Portugal to be known as “Fiesta Alegria de Isabela”.

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,