

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7066



Introduced by HON. MARK O. GO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to declare February 1 of every year a special working holiday in the city of Baguio, in celebration of Panagbenga Festival.

Baguio City takes pride in its month-long flower festival called Panagbenga. Every year, jubilant spectators flock to the country's Summer Capital to take part in this colorful celebration. The Grand Street Dancing Parade and the Grand Float Parade serve as the highlights of the festivities where dancers clad in vibrant clothing and gigantic floral floats march through the streets of Session Road to other parts of the city.

Aside from the display of richness of flora that can be found in the Cordillera region, the Panagbenga Festival showcases cultural performances, traditional market encounters, painting sessions, and flower arrangement and landscaping competitions. The full program of activities is spread over a month which usually commences on the first day of February.

The Panagbenga Festival was launched in 1996 to boost the city's economy following the devastation of the city from the 1990 Luzon earthquake. The term Panagbenga is of Kankanaey origin which means season of blossoming.

The celebration transforms the city into a spectacular display of color, making it the largest flower festival in the country. Before the pandemic, the Pangbenga Festival is estimated to have brought in millions of tourists especially during the street dancing and float parade events. To this date, it remains among the most awaited festival, providing opportunities to sectors whose income are dependent on tourism receipts.

This measure seeks to honor the tradition and values of Baguio and the Cordilleras – the ability to withstand the hardest of adversities, and blossoming like a beautiful flower in the end.

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


MARK O. GO

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

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**AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO, IN CELEBRATION OF PANAGBENGA
FESTIVAL**

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

SECTION 1. February 1 of every year is hereby declared as special working holiday in the city of Baguio, in celebration of the Panagbenga Festival.

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,