



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 8631



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE SATURDAY BEFORE THE FEAST DAY OF STO. NIÑO AS
THE OFFICIAL DATE FOR THE LAKBAYAW FESTIVAL IN TONDO, MANILA
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The devotion to Santo Niño is commonplace in Philippine Catholic life. It was in Cebu that the first image of Santo Niño was introduced to the Filipinos and from that day onwards, centuries later, devotees of the child Jesus never waned in numbers.

The official feast day of Santo Niño in the Philippines falls on the third Sunday of January, hence, many festivals during the said month are held across the country. These celebrations are occasioned with different activities but foremost is the procession and street dance, dedicated to the saint. One of these is the Lakbayaw Festival of Tondo, Manila.

Santo Niño is the patron saint of Tondo, Manila, which stands as the first Christian parish in Luzon.¹ As such, it comes as no surprise that festivities in Tondo draw in crowds of devotees not just from within the locality but from other cities and provinces as well. The fiesta celebration includes hourly mass, a procession of Santo Niño replicas, cultural shows, and sports fests.²

¹ *Why Filipinos Love the Santo Nino*. <https://nqc.gov.ph/en/resources/why-filipinos-love-the-santo-nino/>

² *Celebration: Tondo's 'Lakbayaw Festival'*. <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/celebration-tondo-lakbayaw-festival-170553995.html>

This proposed measure endeavors to set the official day and name of the Lakbayaw festival, such being an important event for the people of Tondo and devotees of Santo Niño. The date of the celebration as per this proposed bill shall be officially set on the Saturday before the feast day of Santo Niño.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', is positioned above the printed name.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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

SECTION 1. The Saturday before the Feast Day of Sto. Nino is hereby declared as the official date of the Lakbayaw Festival in Tondo, Manila.

SECTION 2. Upon the effectivity of this Act, the festival shall hereinafter be referred to officially as the “Lakbayaw Festival”.

SECTION 3. There is hereby created a Lakbayaw Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, for the purpose of planning and conducting the festival. The Council shall be comprised of representatives from the following stakeholders:

- a.) Office of the District Representative;
- b.) Representative from the Archdiocesan Shrine of Sto. Niño de Tondo;
- c.) Representative from the Office of the City Mayor;
- d.) Representative from the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Arts of Manila (DTCAM);
- e.) Representative from the Barangay Bureau;
- f.) Representative from the Manila Police District;
- g.) Representative from the Bureau of Fire Protection of Manila; and
- h.) Representative from the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management (MDRRM).

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

Approved,