Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. **9851**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT
DECLARING JANUARY 9 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The Feast of the Black Nazarene, held annually on January 9th, is a deeply significant religious and cultural event for millions of Filipinos.

The centuries-old tradition of the Traslacion, where the venerated image of the Black Nazarene is carried through the streets of Manila, draws devotees from all over the country and represents a powerful expression of faith, hope, and resilience.

The feast is celebrated not only in the City of Manila but also in other parts of the countries. One of the biggest and regular celebrations is held in Cagayan de Oro City in Northern Mindanao.[1]

The magnitude of the celebration necessitates significant logistical and security measures, potentially disrupting regular work schedules and hindering full participation.

Recognizing the Feast of the Black Nazarene as a national holiday would allow Filipinos nationwide to observe the occasion with due reverence and participate in related activities.

[1] https://www.rappler.com/nation/mindanao/cagayan-de-oro-takes-center-stage-nazareno-traslacion-2023/

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN
Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the *"Feast of the Black Nazarene Act."*

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* — (a) Recognizing the fundamental right to religious freedom, the State promotes a society that accommodates diverse beliefs, prohibits discrimination, and maintains neutrality in its functions.

(b) While respecting historical and cultural significance, the State may designate specific religious holidays or grant reasonable accommodations for observance, considering public needs and avoiding religious endorsement.

SECTION 3. *Feast of the Black Nazarene.* — January 9th of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday throughout the Philippines, to be known as "Feast of the Black Nazarene Day.".

SECTION 4. *Government Assistance.* — The appropriate government agencies and local government units shall be responsible for ensuring the smooth observance of this holiday, including the provision of necessary security and public safety measures during the Traslacion and other related activities.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, in a newspaper of general circulation, or on a website provided for by law.

Approved,