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. **9877**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Founded in the Philippines, the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) stands as one of the country's oldest and most influential religious order. Over the years, it has played an important role in shaping the nation's social and cultural landscape. Beginning its journey in Punta, Santa Ana, Manila, the church has experienced remarkable growth, rapidly spreading its influence across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Remarkably, it has even established a presence beyond the borders of the Philippines.

The designation of July 27 as a special nonworking holiday reflects our commitment to inclusivity and the acknowledgment of religious diversity. This decision not only honors the convictions held by millions of Filipinos but also provides an opportunity for all citizens to participate in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Iglesia ni Cristo to our collective history.

In proposing this legislation, which recognizes the profound influence of Iglesia ni Cristo on our national identity, we aim to underscore our commitment to fostering unity, understanding, and respect among diverse religious communities. The annual observance of July 27 serves as a mechanism to

strengthen the bonds that unite our nation, emphasizing the importance of religious tolerance and acknowledging the diverse array of beliefs that contribute to the intricate tapestry of Filipino cultural heritage.

Through this proposed legislative measure, amending Republic Act No. 9645 from "special national working holiday" to "non-working holiday," we affirm our dedication to a harmonious coexistence that respects and appreciates the religious pluralism embedded in the Filipino ethos. This adjustment solidifies our commitment to building a society where different faiths can peacefully coexist, contributing to the rich mosaic of cultural diversity that defines the Philippines.

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. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9645, otherwise known as the "Commemoration of the Founding Anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC 3. National Holiday. – July 27 of every year is hereby declared as a special national (~~working~~) **NON-WORKING** holiday in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines."

SECTION 2. *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 3. *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,