

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
3rd Regular Session

House Bill No. **10951**



Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 13th of September every year has been annually declared as a non-working holiday in honor of the anniversary of the historic “Sipat” or Mount Data Peace Accord which is signed on September 13, 1986 between the Philippine government and the Cordillera People’s Liberation Army (CPLA) led by Fr. Conrado “Ka Ambo” Balweg at Mount Data Hotel in Bauko, Mountain Province. Such commemoration is of significance because the said Sipat became the foundation for the eventual creation of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) through Executive Order No. 220 in 1987.

Amid the continuous call for regional autonomy of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), which ought to seek the strengthening and preservation of the region’s culture, including the self-determination and rights of the Igorots, Sipat, which means “peace agreement” or “cessation of hostilities”, eventually paved way to a number of policies initiated for the recognition of the region, including the continuous call on the rights of the indigenous people. Such initiatives in pursuit of the CBA-CPLA peace process include various executive orders from 1987, 2001, memorandum of agreement in 2011, whole of nation approach executive order in 2018, CBA-CPLA Normalization Roadmap, CAR Regional Development Plan, Philippine Development Plan from 2017-2022 and 2023 to 2028 which was highlighted by His Excellency President Bongbong Marcos’s State of the Nation Address in terms of the comprehensive peace process.

In honor of this historic peace agreement, this measure seeks to declare September 13 of every year a special non-working holiday in the Cordillera Administrative Region. Celebrating the anniversary of Sipat as a special non-working holiday allows the region to revisit the continuing legacy of the said peace agreement in hopes of the perpetuity of the inspiration of peace and autonomy among the Cordillerans.


HON. ERIC GO YAP

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AN ACT
DECLARING SEPTEMBER 13 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN
COMMEMORATION OF THE SIPAT OR MOUNT DATA PEACE ACCORD
ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "SIPAT DAY"

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

SECTION 1. September 13 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Cordillera Administrative Region, to be known as "Sipat Day" in commemoration of the historic "Sipat" or Mount Data Peace Accord signed on September 13, 1986 between the Philippine government and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) led by Fr. Conrado "Ka Ambo" Balweg.

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,