



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
*Third Regular Session*

House Bill No. 11223

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Introduced by **HON. EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines, a nation celebrated for its cultural and religious diversity, recognizes the invaluable contributions of various religious institutions in shaping its moral, social, and cultural fabric. Among these institutions, the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) holds a prominent place. Established on July 27, 1914, in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila, the INC has grown from a small congregation to a global religious organization, boasting millions of members in the Philippines and over 150 countries and territories worldwide. Its enduring influence and contributions to the Filipino nation merit recognition and celebration.

The measure to declare July 27 of every year as a non-working holiday to commemorate Iglesia Ni Cristo Day serves multiple purposes. First, this initiative serves to acknowledge the INC's pivotal role in fostering moral values, spiritual growth, and discipline among its members. For over a century, the INC has not only provided spiritual guidance but has also

extended humanitarian aid to individuals and communities regardless of religious affiliation, underscoring its commitment to serving humanity. Its relief efforts during natural disasters and social outreach programs, such as the "Lingap sa Mamamayan" (Aid to Humanity), exemplify its dedication to uplifting lives and promoting solidarity across diverse communities.

Moreover, the INC has consistently demonstrated its commitment to nation-building through initiatives that align with the government's goals of fostering inclusive development and national unity. The church's socio-civic projects, including large-scale medical missions, housing programs for underprivileged families, and disaster relief operations, have significantly contributed to addressing pressing societal challenges. By recognizing these efforts, the declaration of "Iglesia Ni Cristo Day" not only honors the INC but also reinforces the government's support for faith-based organizations that play a vital role in nation-building.

The proposed holiday also provides an opportunity for INC members to meaningfully celebrate their church's foundation anniversary. Declaring July 27 as a non-working holiday ensures that members can fully participate in religious and community activities, strengthening their faith and unity. This observance will allow millions of INC members to commemorate this milestone with the dignity and reverence it deserves, without being constrained by professional obligations.

Beyond its significance to the INC community, the measure underscores the Philippines' commitment to religious freedom and inclusivity. It reflects the government's recognition of diverse beliefs and practices, fostering an environment of mutual respect and tolerance. Similar declarations of non-working holidays for other significant religious and cultural events have previously been enacted, highlighting the nation's collective acknowledgment of contributions by various sectors of society.

Furthermore, the inclusion of this measure in the legislative agenda underscores its importance in recognizing the Iglesia Ni Cristo's significant contributions to Philippine society. The proposed holiday highlights the global presence of the INC and its foundational role in nurturing the faith

and social consciousness of Filipinos. It also emphasizes the INC's impact as a unifying force in the country, being one of the largest and most influential religious organizations in the Philippines.

In conclusion, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought. Declaring July 27 as a special national non-working holiday honors the INC's historical and contemporary contributions to Philippine society, promotes understanding and respect among Filipinos of different faiths, and reinforces the rich cultural and religious heritage of the nation. By institutionalizing "Iglesia Ni Cristo Day," the government affirms its commitment to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable role of religious institutions in nation-building and community development.

In view thereof, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Maceda". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**EDWARD VERA PEREZ MACEDA**

4<sup>th</sup> District, Manila City



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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**“COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI**  
**CRISTO ACT”**

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

3 **SECTION 1.** Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9645, otherwise known as the  
4 “Commemoration of the Funding Anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo Act”  
5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1           “SEC. 3 National Holiday. – July 27 of every year is hereby  
2           declared as a special national [working] **NON-WORKING**  
3           holiday in Commemoration of the founding anniversary of the  
4           Iglesia Ni Cristo in the Philippines.”

5   **SEC. 2.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, ordinances or parts  
6   thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
7   modified accordingly.

8   **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at  
9   least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,