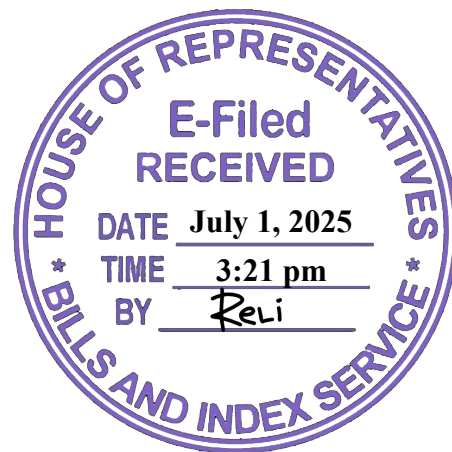




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **936**



Introduced by Representative SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Blaan are among the indigenous peoples of Southern Mindanao and are considered one of the earliest inhabitants of what is now General Santos City. Their rich cultural heritage, values, and traditions have significantly shaped the city's identity, history, and development. Recognizing and celebrating Blaan Day not only honors their invaluable contributions to the region but also reinforces the importance of preserving indigenous cultures in a rapidly modernizing society.

July 22 marks a significant cultural milestone for the Blaan community in General Santos City. Over the years, this day has been commemorated locally through various initiatives aimed at promoting awareness, respect, and solidarity with the Blaan people. Declaring July 22 as a special nonworking holiday will institutionalize this celebration, allowing broader participation and deeper engagement from the public in cultural activities and advocacy.

This measure aligns with the Constitutional mandate to recognize, respect, and promote the rights and welfare of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8371). By declaring Blaan Day as a local holiday, we reaffirm our commitment to inclusive governance, cultural sensitivity, and social justice.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


SHIRLYN L. BAÑAS-NOGRALES



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AN ACT
DECLARING JULY 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS IN
COMMEMORATION OF ITS BLAAN DAY CELEBRATION

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

SECTION 1. July 22 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the City of General Santos in commemoration of its Blaan Day celebration.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,