

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 982



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Magdalena Gamayo is a widely recognized master weaver who dedicated her life to the promotion and preservation of the *Inabel* weaving, the act or tradition of hand weaving cloth native to the Ilocos region. Literally translates to “woven cloth”, experienced local weavers use traditional wooden pedal frame looms to craft and design cloths that come in either plain or patterned variants.

Manang Magdalena Gamayo’s indispensable legacy in being the pioneer *inabel* weaver from Ilocos Norte, learning and mastering this self-taught craft at the age of fifteen (15), is eventually recognized as she was lauded with the GAMABA (“Gawad sa Manlilikha ng Bayan”) or National Living Treasures Award, where she is one of only sixteen (16) awardees.¹ Such distinction is considered as the highest state honor given to a Filipino in recognition of their outstanding work as a traditional folk artist.²

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore of utmost importance to honor and recognize *Manang* Magdalena’s remarkable contribution as a National Living Treasure and pride of Ilocos Norte. Verily, it is highly significant to establish the annual celebration of Magdalena Gamayo Day, to be commemorated every 13th day of August, the same day as her date of birth.

The Magdalena Gamayo Day serves not only as a commemoration of this relevant Ilocano recognition, but also, and more importantly, an opportunity for further awareness and advancement of *Inabel* weaving in Ilocos Norte and beyond.

Accordingly, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

¹ Santiago, C. (n.d.) Magdalena Gamayo: Weaving history and inabel for over 80 years. *Narra Studio*. Retrieved August 1, 2023, from

<https://narrastudio.com/blogs/journal/magdalena-gamayo-weaving-history-and-inabel-for-over-80-years>

² *National Museum website*. (n.d.) Manlilikha ng Bayan Hall. Retrieved August 1, 2023, from <https://www.nationalmuseum.gov.ph/>

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**AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 13 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL
NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE
TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH DATE OF MASTER WEAVER
AND ILOCANO ICON MAGDALENA GAMAYO, TO BE KNOWN AS
“MAGDALENA GAMAYO DAY”**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as “*Magdalena Gamayo Day.*”

SECTION 2. The birthday of Magdalena Gamayo, a renowned weaver, cultural icon, and living symbol of traditional *inabel* weaving culture is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday in the province of Ilocos Norte.

SECTION 3. The provincial government of Ilocos Norte shall organize commemorative activities and implement cultural events for its annual celebration. These activities may include, but are not limited to, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and cultural showcases of traditional weaving techniques and designs unique to the province of Ilocos Norte.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,