

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session



**HOUSE BILLNO. 1277**

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Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING OCTOBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS  
FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On October 17, 1894, Sorsogon gained independence from Albay and became a separate province. Eighty years later, the provincial government organized the Kasangayahan Festival, a Bicol term meaning "prosperity," as a tribute to Sorsogon's founding anniversary.

Since its inception, the festival has been transformed into the preeminent celebration for the entirety of Sorsogon Province. Among the festival's key attractions is the showcase of local products, prominently featuring items derived from the pili tree and various other agricultural offerings. Another popular activity is the Pantomina sa Tinampo, a native regional courtship dance, referred to as the dance of the doves. In 2019, over 7,000 residents performed, setting the Guinness World Record for the largest Philippine folk dance. Notably, this festival holds a place on the Department of Tourism's list of recognized festivals and celebrations in the Philippines.

The observance of a province's founding anniversary serves as a poignant reminder of its enduring culture and traditions. This celebration elevates the morale of its residents, nurturing a deeper appreciation and understanding of their collective history as a community. The annual festivities associated with this occasion play a vital role in fortifying the bonds among the local populace, contributing significantly to the broader tapestry of Filipino culture.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette G. Escudero".

**HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**  
Representative  
1st District, Sorsogon

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

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4 **SECTION 1.** October 17 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking  
5 holiday in the Province of Sorsogon, in commemoration of its Founding Anniversary.

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

*Adopted,*