

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2902



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE JASON P. ALMONTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare February 14 of every year as a special non-working public holiday in the Municipality of Calamba, Province of Misamis Occidental, to be known as “Araw ng Calamba,” in commemoration of its formal inauguration as an independent municipality.

The Municipality of Calamba was established by virtue of Executive Order No. 85, dated 3 September 1947, signed by President Manuel L. Roxas, which organized certain barrios and sitios of the Municipality of Plaridel into a separate and independent local government unit, with the seat of government at Barrio Calamba. While the original effective date of the municipality's organization was set for 16 November 1947, the implementation was deferred through Executive Order No. 116, dated 1 January 1948, owing to the absence of appointed municipal officials. The organization of the new municipality was then moved to take effect on 1 February 1948.

The officials of Calamba were officially appointed on **27** January 1948, and it was on 14 February 1948 that the new municipality was formally inaugurated, marking the beginning of its existence as an independent local government unit. Since then, the people of Calamba have observed February 14 as *Araw ng Calamba*, a day of historical significance and community pride.

In recognition of this local heritage, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), through Chairman Dr. Rene R. Escalante, has formally expressed support for this measure. In its position paper addressed to then House of Representatives Committee on Local Government Chairman Hon. Rex Gatchalian dated 5 December 2022, the NHCP confirmed the historical basis of the celebration and expressed its support to the proposal to declare February 14 a special non-working holiday in Calamba.

Beyond its historical value, the annual celebration is also marked by the Menajak Festival, derived from the Subanen word for “love,” in honor of the indigenous Subanen people who first inhabited the area. This festival, rich in cultural presentations and traditional practices, reflects the town’s deep-rooted identity and unity.

This bill was previously approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress and was transmitted to the Senate on 6 February 2023. The refile of this measure in the current Congress reflects the continuing recognition of the importance of local history, cultural identity, and civic celebration in strengthening nation-building from the grassroots.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully urged.



JASON P. ALMONTE

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**AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 14 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
NONWORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAMBA,
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO COMMEMORATE THE “ARAW NG
CALAMBA”**

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

SECTION 1. February 14 of every year is hereby declared as a special non-working public holiday in the Municipality of Calamba, Province of Misamis Occidental to commemorate the “Araw ng Calamba”.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,