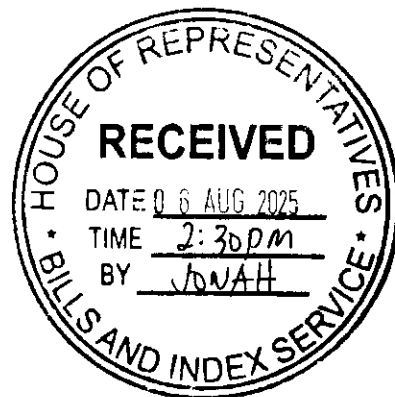


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



Begun and held in Metro Manila on _____, the _____ day of _____, two thousand
and twenty

HOUSE BILL NO. 3238

Introduced by Representative Agatha Paula "Agay" A. Cruz

EXPLANATORY NOTE

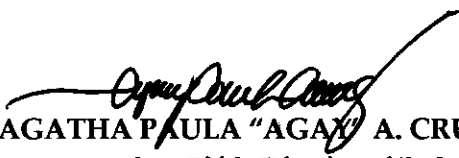
The Municipality of Guiguinto was formerly only a barrio of Bulacan, but it has now blossomed into a 1st class municipality in the province of Bulacan. Among its many laudable hallmarks, Guiguinto has built its reputation in the plant industry. Guiguinto has been dubbed as the "Garden Capital of the Philippines".

It was in 1999 when the Halamanan Festival was first celebrated to recognize Guiguinto's patron, St. Ildephonsus (San Ildefonso). Up to today, the Halamanan Festival is celebrated every January 22nd of each year. Tourists, local and foreign, now look forward to one of the most colorful parades in the country where the unique and various ornamental plants of Guiguinto are shown off. The Halamanan Festival is not only a display of the various flora in Guiguinto, but it is an avenue for the public to become acquainted with the sound agricultural practices of the ornamental plant growers of Guiguinto such as cutting, marcotting, and grafting.

As Guiguinto continues to gain attention for its plant industry, it is important for the government to support its growth by allowing the ornamental plant growers to fully feel the results of their hard work and for the public, especially the youth, to extensively appreciate the beauty and blessings of such industry during this time.

Accordingly, it is proper to declare the Halamanan Festival of the Municipality of Guiguinto as a major tourist attraction and declare therefor January 22 of every year as a special non-working holiday in Guiguinto. Such declaration would bring great honor and pride to the people of Guiguinto and the Province of Bulacan as a whole.

For the constituents of the Municipality of Guiguinto, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ
Representative, Fifth District of Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3238

Introduced by Representative Agatha Paula “Agay” A. Cruz

**AN ACT DECLARING THE HALAMANAN FESTIVAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF
GUIGUINTO, PROVINCE OF BULACAN A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION, AND
DECLARING FOR THAT PURPOSE JANUARY 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIGUINTO AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “Guiguinto Halamanan Festival Act”.

Section 2. Guiguinto Halamanan Festival – The Halamanan Festival of the Municipality of Guiguinto, Province of Bulacan is hereby declared a major tourist attraction. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall include the Halamanan Festival in its National Tourism Development Plan.

Section 3. Special Non-working Holiday – The Halamanan Festival, which is celebrated every January 22 of every year, is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the entire Municipality of Guiguinto, Province of Bulacan.

Section 4. Tourism Development and Promotion Plan– Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOT shall prepare a tourism development and promotion plan for the Halamanan Festival, in coordination with the with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and other concerned agencies of the government. The said tourism development and promotion plan shall consist, among others, the construction, installation, and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall encourage tourism in the area: *Provided*, that such plan shall promote the environmental and economic underpinnings of the festival.

Section 5. Coordination with the DOT – The DOT shall take prompt action towards the implementation of the tourism development and promotion plan under the preceding Section.

The said plan shall form part of the DOT's overall tourism development programs for the succeeding year following the effectivity of this Act.

Section 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Section 6. *Funding* – The amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the DOT and thereafter it shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the projects of the DOT and whenever necessary, charged against the internally generated funds of the DOT.

Section 7. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,