

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3881



Introduced by Representatives Sonny L. Lagon and Daphne A. Lagon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the month of May every year as Visayan Heritage Month to promote the unique historical, and cultural heritage of the Visayan people.

The Constitution mandates for the State to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical cultural heritage. Pursuant thereto Proclamation No. 439 was issued in recognition of the need to create in the people a consciousness of respect and love for the legacies of Filipino cultural history and to raise material support for the protection of tangible and intangible heritage.

Among the nation's largest ethnic groups, the Visayan people is also diverse in itself with characteristics that are unique among Cebuanos, Boholanos, Ilonggos, Siquijodnons, Hiligaynons and the other Visayan ethnic groups. Hence, there is a need to highlight the unique characteristics of the ethnic groups by highlighting the unique arts and culture of the Visayan people.

In view of the above, the month of May is hereby declared as the Visayan Heritage Month to coincide with the celebration of the National Heritage Month. During the whole month of May every year, concerned government agencies shall be mandated to conduct programs and activities that highlight and promote the heritage, arts and culture of the Visayan people.

In view hereof, the prompt approval of this measure is earnestly sought and recommended.


SONNY L. LAGON
Party List, AKO BISAYA


DAPHNE A. LAGON
6th District, Cebu

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY EVERY YEAR AS VISAYAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

SECTION 1. The month of May every year is hereby declared as Visayan Heritage Month to promote the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the Visayan people.

SECTION 2. All agencies of the national government and the local government units in Regions 6, 7 and 8 and the Negros Island Region are hereby enjoined to undertake appropriate programs and activities to promote the unique cultural and historical heritage of the Visayan people to coincide with the celebration of the National Heritage Month. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby tasked to lead and coordinate such activities.

SECTION 3. The Department of Tourism shall support the promotion of the major festivals in the Visayas such as the Sinulog of Cebu, Dinagyang of Iloilo, Ati-Atihan of Aklan and other festivals in any parts of the Visayas to promote cultural tourism in the Visayas region.

SECTION 4. The Department of Tourism, Department of Education and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts shall include in their yearly budgets the amounts necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, in coordination with the Departments of Education Tourism and the Interior and Local Government, shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect immediately.

Approved,