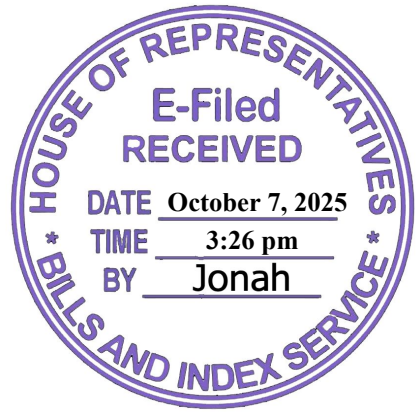


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5249**



Introduced by: **HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA**

AN ACT
DECLARING DECEMBER 10 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY
IN THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, IN COMMEMORATION
OF ITS CITYHOOD AND CELEBRATION OF THE ANNUAL "GINTONG KAWAYAN
FESTIVAL"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Gintong Kawayan Festival" is the official city festival of the City of Meycauayan in celebration of the rich culture, history, and heritage of the city and to mark the city's founding anniversary. Meycauayan became officially a component city by virtue of R.A. No. 9356 following a plebiscite held on December 10, 2006.

As among the oldest towns in the country, the city's rich history began when the then town of Meycauayan was established as a settlement by a group of Spanish priests belonging to the Franciscan Order. In 1578, the first church structure made of nipa and bamboo was built by Father Juan de Placencia and Diego Oropesa. Its name is derived from the Castilian language which means, "a place full of bamboo."

The City of Meycauayan is currently a First-Class component city in the Province of Bulacan and has a population of 225,673 according to the 2020 Census of Population and Household. The city is also known as the Jewelry Capital of the Philippines with a long history of jewelry production, including precious metals like gold and silver, as well as precious and semi-precious stones. It is widely believed that Chinese goldsmiths settled in Meycauayan and the art of jewelry making was then introduced and taught to the townspeople. The art of jewelry making was handed down through generations, and this became one the major industries of Meycauayan.

Through the passage of this bill, the Gintong Kawayan Festival shall be declared as the official festival of the City of Meycauayan to be held every 10th of December. The annual festivity will ensure the continuity of the tradition of celebrating the cityhood of Meycauayan as well as the recognition of its rich history and the significant contribution of the people of Meycauayan to the industry of jewelry making that made the city to be known as the Jewelry Capital of the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
Fourth District, Bulacan

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

SECTION 1. December 10 of every year is declared a special non-working holiday in the City of Meycauayan, Province of Bulacan, in commemoration of its cityhood and celebration of the Gintong Kawayan Festival.

SECTION 2. All laws, orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,