

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 5705



**Introduced by Honorable Representatives
DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (Akbayan Partylist)
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO (Akbayan Partylist)
PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (Akbayan Partylist)
ARLENE "KAKA" J. BAG-AO (Dinagat Islands)**

**AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 29 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY, A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

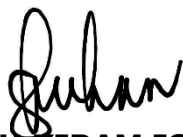
In the Philippines, August 9 is declared as a special working holiday to commemorate National Indigenous Peoples' Day¹, while the month of October is declared as Indigenous Peoples' Month². Despite these existing policies, there remains a significant gap in the public's awareness and appreciation of the history, culture and rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

By declaring October 29, which marks the enactment of Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA), as the National Indigenous Peoples' Day the State will promote national consciousness and foster respect for indigenous heritage and rights.

Furthermore, by designating October 29 as a special non-working holiday, this observance will complement the celebration of the Indigenous Peoples' Month by enhancing public engagement and enabling a more meaningful celebration that highlights the historical, cultural, social and economic contributions of ICCs/IPs, who represent our nation's rich cultural diversity.

¹ Republic Act No. 10689

² Proclamation No. 1906, series of 2009



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
"CHEL" I. DIOKNO
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. *National Indigenous Peoples' Day*** – To recognize the rights and
2 contributions of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs)/Indigenous Peoples (IPs),
3 October 29 of every year is declared as the National Indigenous Peoples' Day which
4 will be observed annually as a special non-working holiday.

5
6 **SEC. 2. *Lead Agency.*** The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), in
7 coordination with relevant government agencies, is designated as the lead agency in
8 organizing and coordinating activities for the National Indigenous Peoples' Day. The
9 planned activities must highlight the culture of ICCs and/or IPs, and promote
10 awareness of the their rights as enacted by the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of
11 1997. These activities may include but are not limited to cultural events, educational
12 campaigns, seminars, and forums.

13
14 **SEC. 3. *Appropriations.*** - This Act will be implemented initially within the framework
15 of the budget of the NCIP for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the
16 funds required will be drawn from its appropriations for program planning, conduct of
17 personnel development and technical research. Thereafter, the amounts as may be
18 necessary for the implementation of this Act will be included in the budget of the NCIP
19 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

20

1 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is
2 held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected will
3 continue in full force and effect.

4 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules
5 and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions
6 of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

7
8 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act takes effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
9 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,