



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6087**



Introduced by Representative Reynaldo P. Salvacion

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is recognized as one of the few predominantly Christian nations in Asia, with its Christian heritage tracing back to 1521, when Ferdinand Magellan arrived on Philippine shores. This event marked the beginning of the widespread conversion of the indigenous population to Christianity.

Throughout history, the Philippines has become known not only for its faith but also for its vibrant and deeply rooted celebrations of Christian culture and traditions. Among these, the observance of Holy Week holds significant religious and cultural importance. In the Province of Marinduque, the Moriones Festival has been celebrated since 1807, introduced by Father Dionisio Santiago, the Parish Priest of Mogpog. This festival is commemorated annually during Holy Week, featuring participants dressed in colorful costumes and masks resembling Roman soldiers.

The Moriones Festival serves as an act of penance and a form of atonement for sins by the people of Marinduque, dramatizing the biblical story of Saint Longinus—a Roman soldier who was healed of blindness after being touched by the blood of Jesus when he pierced Christ's side with a spear. This powerful narrative is reenacted by the people of Marinduque as a meaningful expression of faith and devotion.

Since the festival originated in Marinduque and has become an integral part of the local culture and identity, it is fitting to officially recognize the province as the home of the Moriones Festival. Such recognition would honor the heritage of the people of Marinduque and further promote pride in their unique cultural tradition.

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


Rep. Reynaldo P. Salvacion
Lone District, Marinduque



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**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS THE
OFFICIAL HOME OF THE MORIONES FESTIVAL AND PROVIDING
FOR ITS PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION**

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

SECTION 1. It is. In line with the policy of the State to protect, preserve and promote the country's historical and cultural heritage, the Province of Marinduque is hereby officially recognized and declared as the Home of the Moriones Festival.

SECTION 2. The Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with local government units and cultural agencies, shall actively promote the Moriones Festival as a cultural attraction in the national tourism agenda, ensuring its preservation and enhancement for future generations.

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,