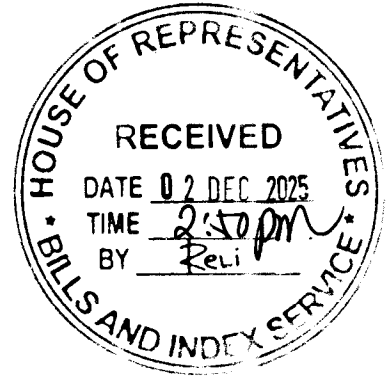


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6550**



Introduced by Honorable EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Virac serves not only as the capital of the Province of Catanduanes, but also as its center of commerce, culture, and local governance. According to the 2024 Census of Population (2024 POPCEN), Virac has a population of 75,135, comprising nearly 30 percent of the total population of the Island Province.

Every year, people from all municipalities in the province, as well as visitors of the island, converge in Virac for business, leisure, and celebration on December 7, when the town celebrates the "Kaaldawan nin Virac." Recognized as one of the biggest festivities in Catanduanes, this day is usually declared a special non-working holiday through a Presidential Proclamation, giving the people full opportunity to celebrate and participate in the occasion and ceremonies.

This bill seeks to formally declare, "Kaaldawan nin Virac," as a non-working holiday in the Municipality of Virac, Province of Catanduanes. The measure aims to institutionalize this local observance to honor the people of Virac, celebrate their history, showcase their cultural identity, and strengthen a broader sense of community. Declaring December 7 a holiday allows residents and visitors alike to participate fully in the festivities, highlighting the town's cultural heritage, economic vitality, and civic pride. Ultimately, the celebration also serves as an opportunity to promote tourism, foster unity, and pay tribute to the collective spirit and resilience of the people of Virac.

Notably, the House of Representatives and the Senate had already approved this bill seeking to declare the "Kaaldawan nin Virac" a holiday in the Province of Catanduanes on Third and Final Reading during the 19th Congress. However, due to lack of material time, the House of Representatives and the Senate were unable to reconcile and concur on a unified version of the said measure. In this view, in support of the people of Virac, this representation has filed the same bill in the 20th Congress.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. **6550**

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AN ACT
DECLARING DECEMBER 7 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VIRAC, PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES

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

SECTION 1. December 7 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Virac, Province of Catanduanes, in celebration of the “Kaaldawann in Virac.”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,