

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6926



Introduced by
Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr" A. Acosta

AN ACT
DECLARING THE SECOND FRIDAY OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, TO BE KNOWN AS "CITY OF THE LIVING GOD DAY," IN RECOGNITION OF ITS CULTURAL, SPIRITUAL, AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND TO PROMOTE UNITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND LOCAL HERITAGE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The City of Puerto Princesa, long recognized for its commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and inclusive governance, has over the years developed a strong sense of identity grounded in community, gratitude, and faith. In recognition of this, many of its residents and civic groups have embraced the symbolic title: "City of the Living God."

This expression, rooted in the people's collective aspiration for moral, spiritual, and ecological stewardship, reflects not a sectarian agenda, but a unifying principle that cuts across denominations and belief systems. It highlights the city's aspiration to be governed by righteousness, peace, and respect for creation—values that resonate deeply with both religious and secular sectors of the community.

This proposed measure seeks to formally recognize the second Friday of March of every year as "City of the Living God Day," a special working holiday in Puerto Princesa. It is envisioned as a day of thanksgiving, civic unity, and cultural celebration—one that will foster deeper reflection on the city's shared values and encourage participation in activities that promote social harmony, environmental sustainability, and cultural heritage.

The holiday is not intended to establish any religion, nor to exclude any group. Rather, it is a local expression of community identity—similar in nature to other place-based celebrations throughout the Philippines that honor the values, history, and uniqueness of a locality.

By institutionalizing this annual observance, the bill aims to strengthen civic pride, promote moral and cultural awareness, and inspire future

generations to preserve the spirit of gratitude, service, and unity that characterizes Puerto Princesa.

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



GIL "Kaborangay Jr" A. ACOSTA
Representative
3rd District of Palawan

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “City of the Living
2 God Day Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to recognize the cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of local
5 government units and their contributions to national identity, sustainable
6 development, and inclusive progress. The City of Puerto Princesa, known for its
7 environmental stewardship and rich cultural diversity, has chosen to identify
8 itself as “The City of the Living God”—an expression of faith, gratitude, and
9 unity among its people.

10 Sec. 3. *City of the Living God Day.* — To commemorate the spiritual and
11 cultural identity of Puerto Princesa, the second Friday of March of every year is
12 hereby declared a special working holiday in the City of Puerto Princesa,
13 Province of Palawan, to be known as “City of the Living God Day.”

14 Sec. 4. *Observance.* — On this day, the City Government of Puerto
15 Princesa shall, in partnership with civil society, faith-based organizations, and
16 cultural groups, lead citywide events that reflect the values of faith, gratitude,
17 cultural heritage, environmental stewardship, and inclusive development.

18 Sec. 5. *Role of the City Government.* — The City Government of Puerto
19 Princesa shall be primarily responsible for the planning, coordination, and
20 implementation of the annual activities in observance of this special working
21 holiday. It may form a local organizing committee for this purpose, with
22 representation from various sectors including religious groups, indigenous
23 communities, youth, and business associations.

1 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days
2 from the effectivity of this Act, the City Government of Puerto Princesa, in
3 consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),
4 shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

5 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared
6 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
7 remain in full force and effect.

8 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive
9 orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are
10 inconsistent with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

11 Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
12 after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general
13 circulation.

14 *Approved,*