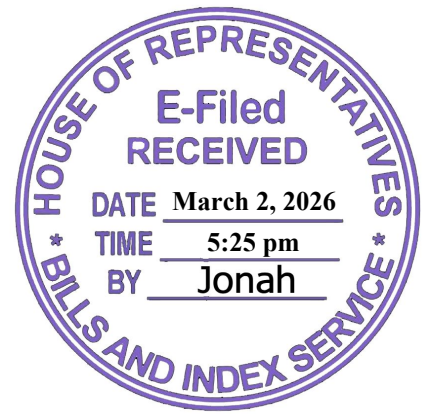


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8229



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare May 13 of every year as a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Benguet in celebration of the Kankana-ey Festival. The measure aims to honor the cultural heritage, history, and enduring contributions of the Kankana-ey people, one of the major ethnolinguistic groups that have shaped the cultural identity and socio-economic development of the province.

The term “Kankana-ey,” also spelled *Kankanaey*, *Kankanay*, *Kankanai*, or *Kankana-i*, refers to both the people and the culture predominantly found in Benguet and Mountain Province within the Cordillera Administrative Region. In Benguet, the Kankana-ey are largely concentrated in the municipalities of Mankayan, Bakun, Kibungan, Buguias, the upper half of Kapangan, and parts of Atok. Kankana-ey communities are also found in other municipalities of the province like La Trinidad, Tublay, Bokod, Kabayan, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba. Collectively known as the Benguet Kankana-ey, they are distinct from the Benguet Ibaloy, who mainly inhabit the southern parts of the province, including the highly urban center of Baguio City.

The Kankana-ey people, with their rich ethnolinguistic identity, deep-rooted traditions, and long-standing presence in the highlands, remain one of the most influential Indigenous Peoples in Benguet. Their customs, cultural practices, and social systems continue to contribute significantly to the province’s collective identity and its socio-economic landscape.

To formally recognize and honor this legacy, the Kankana-ey-concentrated municipalities of Kibungan, Kapangan, Bakun, Buguias, and Mankayan jointly celebrated the first Kankana-ey Festival on May 13, 2023, an event now institutionalized as an annual celebration and officially acknowledged by the provincial government. It serves as the counterpart of the Ibaloy Festival, which pays tribute to another historically significant ethnolinguistic group in the province.

It is important to highlight that in the nineteenth (19th) Congress, similar bills were filed separately for the municipalities of Bakun, Buguias, Kapangan, Kibungan, and Mankayan. However, this consolidated measure is now being filed as one unified bill to reflect the presence of Kankana-ey communities across the thirteen

(13) municipalities in Benguet and to avoid any perceived exclusion or unequal recognition among them. Also, it ensures fairness, inclusivity, and consistency in honoring the ethnolinguistic group as a whole.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8229**

Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT

**DECLARING MAY 13 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF BENGUET IN CELEBRATION OF THE
KANKANA-EY FESTIVAL**

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

SECTION 1. May 13 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking
holiday in the Province of Benguet, in celebration of the annual Kankana-ey Festival.

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,