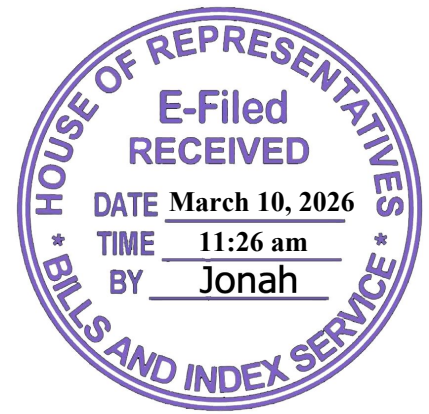


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8395



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare September 13 of every year as a special nonworking holiday in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in commemoration of the historic "Sipat" or Mount Data Peace Accord. Signed on September 13, 1986 at the Mount Data Hotel in Bauko, Mountain Province is the peace agreement between the Philippine Government and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), led by Fr. Conrado "Ka Ambo" Balweg, marked a pivotal moment in the history of the Cordillera. This accord laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Cordillera Administrative Region through Executive Order No. 220 in 1987.

The Sipat, meaning "peace agreement" or "cessation of hostilities", remains a foundation in the continuing pursuit of peace, cultural preservation, and self-determination for the people of the Cordillera. As the region sustains its longstanding call for autonomy, the Sipat stands as a defining moment that catalyzed decades of policy initiatives for regional recognition and Indigenous Peoples' rights. These include various executive issuances from 1987 onward, the CBA-CPLA peace process commitments, the 2011 Memorandum of Agreement, the institutionalization of the "Whole-of-Nation Approach" under Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018, the CBA-CPLA Normalization Roadmap, the Cordillera Regional Development Plans, and the Philippine Development Plans from 2017-2022 and 2023-2028, efforts reiterated by His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his State of the Nation Address as part of the comprehensive peace agenda.

Declaring September 13 as a special nonworking holiday affirms the importance of remembering the Sipat as a living legacy. This observance allows the people of CAR to reflect on the lasting impact of the agreement, strengthen their collective commitment to peace, and advance the continuing aspiration for meaningful regional autonomy.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **8395**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT

DECLARING SEPTEMBER 13 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SIPAT OR MOUNT DATA PEACE ACCORD ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "SIPAT DAY"

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

SECTION 1. September 13 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Cordillera Administrative Region, to be known as "Sipat Day" in commemoration of the historic "Sipat" or Mount Data Peace Accord signed on September 13, 1986 between the Philippine government and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) led by Fr. Conrado "Ka Ambo" Balweg.

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,