

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9258**



Introduced by Representative Jan "Atty. JP" D. Padiernos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Province of Nueva Ecija, revered as the "Rice Granary of the Philippines," occupies a vital place in the history, culture, and economy of the nation. Its identity is deeply rooted in the courage, industry, and enduring spirit of its people.

Historical records show that Nueva Ecija was formally established on April 25, 1801, as a military district or *corregimiento* by virtue of a superior decree issued under the authority of Governor-General Rafael María de Aguilar. The province was named after the Spanish city of Écija and originally brought together areas that formed part of Upper Pampanga and certain settlements of Tayabas, marking the beginning of what would become one of the most important provinces in Central Luzon.

For many decades, however, the true founding date of Nueva Ecija was not formally commemorated. Recognizing the need to establish, with certainty and finality, the true birth of the Province for the benefit of all Novo Ecijanos, a historical research initiative was undertaken beginning in 2013 under the leadership of Governor Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali.

From 2013 to 2016, the said research initiative gathered, examined, and validated historical records relating to the establishment of the Province. Through this undertaking, historical records were unearthed and validated confirming that Nueva Ecija was founded on April 25, 1801.

The said historical finding has since received official recognition. On October 24, 2025, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, through its Chairperson, Regalado Trota Jose, Jr., confirmed April 25, 1801 as the founding date of the Province of Nueva Ecija. Thereafter, the Office of the President, through Proclamation No. 1211, s. 2026, declared April 25, 2026 as a special non-working day in the Province of Nueva Ecija in celebration of its Founding Anniversary.

Nueva Ecija's legacy is also distinguished by its role in the struggle for Philippine independence. As one of the first eight provinces to rise in arms against Spanish colonial rule, its valor is immortalized as one of the eight rays of the sun in the Philippine National Flag. Today, the province remains a center of agriculture, culture, resilience, and progress.

The declaration of April 25 of every year as Nueva Ecija Founding Day, a special non-working holiday in the Province of Nueva Ecija, is a fitting recognition of the province's rich history and heritage. It will allow Novo Ecijanos to commemorate their founding anniversary,

participate in civic and cultural activities, honor the sacrifices of their forebears, and strengthen their shared identity as a people.

This measure also supports local tourism, civic unity, historical awareness, and the continuing preservation of Nueva Ecija's rightful place in the annals of Philippine history.

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


Rep. Jan Atty. JP D. Padiernos
GP (GALING SA PUSO) Partylist

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AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS NUEVA ECIJA FOUNDING DAY, A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Nueva Ecija Founding Day”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Nueva Ecija Founding Day. — April 25 of every year is hereby declared as Nueva Ecija Founding Day, in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the Province of Nueva Ecija.

SECTION 3. Declaration of Special Non-Working Holiday. — April 25 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Province of Nueva Ecija, including all cities and municipalities therein, to allow the people of the province to fittingly celebrate and participate in commemorative, civic, historical, cultural, educational, and tourism-related activities.

SECTION 4. Historical Significance. — The annual commemoration of Nueva Ecija Founding Day shall honor the province’s history, cultural heritage, and the sacrifices and contributions of its forebears, leaders, and people in preserving historical truth, strengthening civic identity, and promoting unity and pride among Novo Ecijanos.

SECTION 5. Lead Implementing Agency. — The Provincial Government of Nueva Ecija, in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, local government units within the province, and other concerned national government agencies, may lead, organize, and support appropriate programs and activities for the annual celebration of Nueva Ecija Founding Day.

Such activities may include historical lectures, cultural presentations, civic ceremonies, tourism promotions, educational programs, exhibits, and other activities that promote awareness of Nueva Ecija’s founding, history, heritage, and contributions to the nation.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,