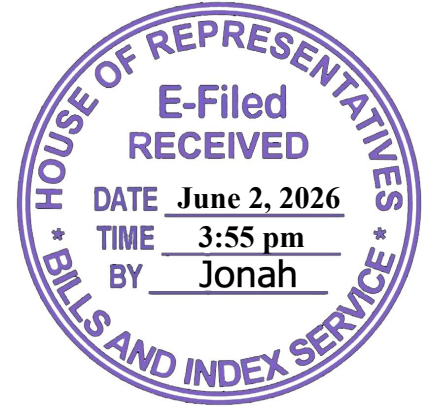




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



HOUSE BILL NO. 9678

Introduced by **REP. MARIO O. SALVADOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Known for its vast rice fields and various contribution to the field of agriculture, The Province of Nueva Ecija has long since earned its title as the “Rice Granary of the Philippines”. Now, it positions itself as a major contributor towards rice production and food security nationwide.

However, its history is far from peaceful being deeply rooted in the courage, industry, and the enduring spirit of its people. Historically, the province was established by virtue of a superior decree issued under Governor-General Rafael María de Aguilar on April 25, 1801. It was originally a *corregimiento* or a military district named after the Spanish City of Écija being composed of Upper Pampanga and certain settlements of Tayabas.

Various records has also shown its active participation in the fight for the country’s independence and freedom from the Spanish reign. During 1896, thousands of Novo Ecijanos took up arms and joined the revolution for the country’s freedom and independence. This was later known as the “The First Cry of Nueva Ecija” or “Ang Unang Sigaw ng Nueva Ecija”. This act of defiance against our oppressors became the Province’ legacy. Being regarded as one of the first eight provinces to rise against the Spanish reign, the Province is immortalized as one of the eight rays of the sun in the Philippine National Flag.

Despite its valuable contributions then and now as well as its rich culture and history, the province has yet to formally commemorate its true founding date. Realizing the need to establish the true birth of the Province with both certainty and finality, a historical research initiative was conducted from 2013 under the leadership of Governor Aurelio “Oyie” Matias Umali.

After three years of arduous investigation, examination, and verification, from various historical records, it has been confirmed that Nueva Ecija was indeed founded on April 25, 1801. Subsequently, this finding was then confirmed by the National Historical Commission on October 24, 2025 through its Chairperson, Regalado Trota Jose, Jr. Later on, the Office of the President, by virtue of Proclamation No. 1211, s.



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2026, April 25, 2026 was declared a special non-working day in the Province of Nueva Ecija to celebrate its Founding Anniversary.

To pay homage to the Province' rich culture, valuable contribution to history, and its continued support towards food security, the bill aims to declare April 25 of every year as Nueva Ecija Founding Day. Additionally, it aims to designate the said day as a special non-working holiday in the Province of Nueva Ecija allowing Novo Ecijanos to commemorate its founding, participate in civic and cultural activities, honor the sacrifice of those who fought for freedom, and to strengthen the community's shared identity.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario O. Salvador", is written over a horizontal line.

MARIO O. SALVADOR
Representative
Second District, Nueva Ecija



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House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

HOUSE BILL NO. 9678

Introduced by **REP. MARIO O. SALVADOR**

**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 Congress of the Philippines:

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 to commemorate 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 allowing 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



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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.