



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9902



Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Municipality of Samal, the second oldest town in the Province of Bataan, was founded by Dominican friars on 20 April 1641, and placed under the spiritual patronage of St. Catherine of Sienna. Rich in history and culture, Samal is recognized as the pioneer of the capiz shell industry along the surrounding coastlines, the birthplace of the province's wooden shoe ("bakya") making industry, and the site of the country's first pulp mills.

Over the centuries, Samal has gracefully evolved from a quaint coastal settlement into a progressive municipality. Driven by the remarkable resilience and industriousness of its people, the town has sustained its thriving agricultural and fishing sectors, ensuring food security and economic vitality. Commemorating its foundation day serves not only as a tribute to this colorful past but also as a celebration of the community's continuous growth and achievements.

Every year, the people of Samal proudly commemorate their foundation day. Recognizing the profound historical significance of this date, the Sangguniang Bayan of Samal passed Resolution No. 26-103, advocating for the legislative enactment of April 20th of every year as a special non-working holiday in the municipality.

Declaring April 20 as a special non-working holiday will allow the people of Samal to fully participate in meaningful civic, cultural, and commemorative festivities. It provides the working population and students the opportunity to honor their ancestors and strengthen their sense of community without the constraints of work or school. Furthermore, institutionalizing this celebration will promote local tourism, attract visitors, and contribute to the economic growth and cultural development of the municipality.

In view of the foregoing, and to give due recognition to the socio-historical importance of Samal's founding, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonino B. Roman III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ANTONINO B. ROMAN III



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AN ACT
DECLARING APRIL 20 OF EVERY YEAR AS "ARAW NG SAMAL," A SPECIAL
NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAMAL, PROVINCE
OF BATAAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

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

SECTION 1. – April 20 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Samal, Province of Bataan, in commemoration of its founding anniversary, to be known as "Araw ng Samal."

SEC. 2. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,