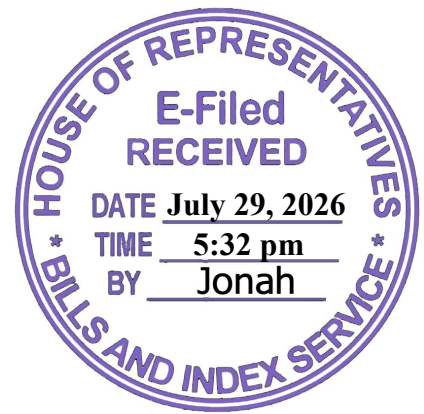


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10406**



Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 29 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIKIT, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS “PIKIT FOUNDATION DAY,” IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

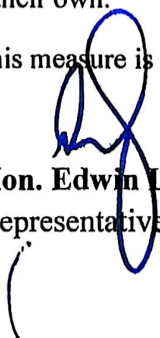
The Municipality of Pikit, Province of Cotabato, traces its founding to September 29, a date that has since become a significant milestone in the history, identity, and development of its people. Its annual observance affords an opportunity to commemorate the Municipality’s rich cultural heritage, recognize the contributions of its early leaders and settlers, and promote unity, peace, and progress among its constituents.

Acting on this recognition, the Sangguniang Bayan of Pikit enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 26-670, series of 2026, entitled “An Ordinance Declaring September 29 of Every Year as a Special Non-Working Holiday in the Municipality of Pikit, Cotabato in Commemoration of Its Founding Anniversary,” pursuant to the general welfare clause under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991.” By its own terms, however, the Ordinance can only bind the Municipality’s own offices; it merely “encourages” private establishments to observe the holiday, since a local ordinance cannot, by itself, impose the labor-standards consequences of a non-working holiday on the private sector or on national government offices within its territory. Under Section 27, Book I of the Administrative Code of 1987, as consistently interpreted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG Opinion No. 127, s. 2022; DILG Opinion No. 66, s. 2000), only the President of the Philippines, by proclamation, or the Congress, by statute, may validly declare a special non-working holiday with binding effect on all sectors, including private employers.

The bill declares September 29 a special non-working holiday within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Pikit, defines its coverage over both government and private establishments operating therein, and clarifies the applicable wage rules for the guidance of employers and employees alike, consistent with the Labor Code of the Philippines and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, while carving out essential public services from suspension of operations, consistent with the safeguard already built into the Municipality’s own Ordinance.

The passage of this measure completes the two-tier process required under existing law and regulations for a locally observed founding anniversary to acquire the full legal force of a special non-working holiday, and gives lasting statutory recognition, beyond the reach of any single administration, to a date the people of Pikit have already chosen to honor as their own.

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


Hon. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.
Representative, 1st District of Cotabato

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1
2 **AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 29 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING**
3 **HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PIKIT, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE**
4 **KNOWN AS “PIKIT FOUNDATION DAY,” IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING**
5 **ANNIVERSARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

7 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Pikit Foundation Day Act.”

8 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize
9 and give due honor to the historical heritage, cultural identity, and civic milestones of local government
10 units, consistent with the local autonomy guaranteed under Section 25, Article II and Section 2, Article
11 X of the 1987 Constitution, and Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government
12 Code of 1991.” Towards this end, the State recognizes September 29 as the founding anniversary of the
13 Municipality of Pikit, Province of Cotabato, and shall accord its annual commemoration the full legal
14 status of a special non-working holiday, thereby allowing its residents, government employees, private
15 sector workers, students, and other stakeholders to fully participate in the commemorative, cultural,
16 historical, and civic activities attendant thereto.

17 **SECTION 3. *Declaration of Special Non-Working Holiday.*** September 29 of every year is
18 hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Pikit, Province of Cotabato, to be
19 known as “Pikit Foundation Day,” in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the Municipality.

20 **SECTION 4. *Coverage.*** The special non-working holiday declared under this Act shall apply
21 within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Pikit, Province of Cotabato, and shall cover all
22 national and local government offices, agencies, and instrumentalities, as well as private establishments
23 operating therein, subject to Section 5 of this Act.

24 **SECTION 5. *Effect on Wages and Salaries.*** The observance of September 29 as a special non-
25 working holiday shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as
26 amended, its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and the applicable issuances of the Department of
27 Labor and Employment (DOLE) on special (non-working) days: *Provided*, That employees who are
28 required to report for work on said day shall be entitled to the premium pay mandated under said rules:
29 *Provided, further*, That government offices and instrumentalities engaged in essential public services,
30 including but not limited to health, peace and order, and emergency response, shall continue to render
31 full service notwithstanding the declaration of this special non-working holiday, and their personnel
32 required to report for work shall be entitled to the compensatory benefits provided under applicable
33 civil service rules and regulations.

34 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Guidelines.*** The Sangguniang Bayan and the Office of the
35 Municipal Mayor of Pikit, Cotabato, in coordination with the DOLE and the Civil Service Commission
36 (CSC), shall issue such guidelines as may be necessary to ensure the orderly and effective observance
37 of this Act, consistent with Municipal Ordinance No. 26-670, series of 2026.

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

43 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
44 invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

45 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
46 Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

47 **APPROVED,**

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