



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



Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10736

Introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare July 12 of every year as a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Romblon, Province of Romblon to be known as the "*West Philippine Sea Victory Day*."

This proposed measure also seeks to give legislative support to Resolution No. 161-2026, entitled "*A Resolution Declaring July 12 of Every Year as West Philippine Sea Victory Day in the Municipality of Romblon, Province of Romblon*" adopted by the Sangguniang Bayan of the Municipality of Romblon, Province of Romblon.

On July 12, 2016, the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea rendered its historic Award, a landmark in the peaceful resolution of international disputes. The decision reaffirmed the supremacy of international law and definitively clarified the Philippines' maritime entitlements in the West Philippine Sea. Since then, July 12 has stood as a powerful symbol of the nation's unwavering commitment to the rule of law and its resolute, peaceful assertion of sovereign rights and interests.

For the Municipality of Romblon, an island community whose history, culture, and economy are inseparably bound to the sea, the annual observance of West Philippine Sea Victory Day holds profound significance. It serves as a vital occasion to deepen public appreciation of the nation's maritime domain, to honor the indispensable role of the

sea in sustaining the livelihood of fisherfolk and coastal communities, and to highlight its importance in facilitating commerce and inter-island connectivity. At the same time, it underscores the municipality's rich maritime heritage and inspires among Romblomanons a stronger sense of patriotism, national identity, and stewardship over the country's maritime resources.

By institutionalizing this annual observance, the State likewise reinforces the enduring values of peace, justice, adherence to international law, and the protection of the country's maritime interests for present and future generations.

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



ELEANDRO JESUS F. MADRONA



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10736

Introduced by Representative Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona

AN ACT

**DECLARING JULY 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROMBLON,
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “WEST
PHILIPPINE SEA VICTORY DAY”**

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

SECTION 1. July 12 of every year is declared as a special non-
working holiday in the Municipality of Romblon, Province of Romblon, to
be known as the “*West Philippine Sea Victory Day*”.

This observance commemorates the July 12, 2016 Arbitral Award,
a historic legal victory that reaffirmed the rule of law, clarified the
country’s maritime entitlements, and upheld the rights and interests of
the Filipino people in the West Philippine Sea under International Law.

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

4 Approved,