



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10822**



Introduced by **HON. BAMBI B. EMANO & HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

**AN ACT DECLARING THE KASILAY FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SALAY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL,
DECLARING THE 1ST DAY OF MAY AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is endowed with a rich cultural heritage that finds expression in the customs, traditions, festivals, and indigenous knowledge systems of its people. Festivals have become living expressions of local identity, preserving history while fostering community pride, tourism, and sustainable development.

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to preserve, enrich, and promote Filipino culture. Republic Act No. 10066 (National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009), Republic Act No. 9593 (Tourism Act of 2009), Republic Act No. 7356 (NCCA Act), Republic Act No. 8371 (Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act), and Republic Act No. 11961 (Philippine Creative Industries Development Act) likewise recognize culture and heritage as indispensable pillars of national development.

The Municipality of Salay possesses a unique cultural identity rooted in the traditions of the Higaonon people. Historical accounts trace the origin of the municipality's name to the Higaonon word 'sigay,' referring to seashells gathered along the coast by the area's early inhabitants. Oral tradition relates that when Spanish explorers asked for the name of the place, the natives replied 'sigay,' referring to the shells they were collecting. Over time, the word evolved into 'Salay,' preserving an important part of the municipality's cultural memory.

The Kasilay Festival celebrates this rich heritage. The term 'Kasilay' is inspired by the traditional shell necklace made from local seashells, symbolizing unity, identity, craftsmanship,

and the enduring bond among the people of Salay. The festival honors indigenous traditions, local history, artistic excellence, and the municipality's coastal way of life.

Beyond its cultural significance, the festival stimulates tourism, creates livelihood opportunities for artisans, performers, fisherfolk, farmers, and micro, small, and medium enterprises, while strengthening the creative industries and promoting responsible stewardship of Salay's natural and cultural resources.

Declaring the Kasilay Festival as a National Cultural Heritage Festival and Tourism Event will provide national recognition, encourage institutional support, and ensure that the traditions and identity of Salay are preserved and promoted for future generations.

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



HON. BAMBI B. EMAMO

2nd District of Misamis Oriental



HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS

1st District of Misamis Oriental



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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 'Kasilay Festival Act'.

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the policy of the State to preserve and promote Filipino cultural heritage, indigenous traditions, and sustainable cultural tourism.

SECTION. 3. Declaration - The Kasilay Festival of the Municipality of Salay, Province of Misamis Oriental, is hereby declared a National Cultural Heritage Festival and Tourism Event.

SECTION. 4. Annual Celebration - The Kasilay Festival shall be celebrated annually on the first day of May, consistent with local tradition unless otherwise determined by law.

SECTION. 5. Lead Implementing Agencies - The Department of Tourism, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Local Government Unit of Salay shall jointly implement this Act.

SECTION. 6. Cultural Preservation - The authenticity of Higaonon traditions, local history, crafts, music, dance, and other cultural expressions associated with the festival shall be preserved and protected.

SECTION. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The concerned agencies shall issue the IRR within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION. 8. Separability Clause - If any provision is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in force.

SECTION. 9. Repealing Clause - All inconsistent laws, rules, and regulations are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 10. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,